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A RELATION

Of the Defeating

CARD. MAZARINE & OLIV. CROMWEL'S } Design

To have Taken

OSTEND

BY

Treachery,

In the Year, 1658.

WRITTEN

In *Spanish* by a Person of Quality (who was a chief Actor in the preventing of it) by way of Letter to a friend of his presently after the businesse.

SINCE

Printed in that Language, and now Translated into English.

Fallare falentem non est fraus.

LONDON,

Printed for *Hen. Herringman*, at the *Anchor* in the Lower Walk of the *New Exchange*, 1666.

READER,

LET me perſwade thee to beſtow two hours upon Oſtend. What the Spaniards could not compaſſe (with the vaſt Expence both of Blood and Treaſure) in a leſs ſpace than three years, and odd

months, thou ſhalt here find Taken and Retaken in ſo ſhort a time, that thou mayſt truly term it an Adventure of Five Hours. The Intrigue (which is now expoſed to the Publick) was ſpun with ſo fine a thread, that it was not diſcernable by the piercing eyes of the quickeſt-ſighted Stateſman in Chriſtendome: *However he was ſo far*

blinded

blinded, with zeal, and passion for the service of the Crown of France, that he stood in the Dark to many Essentiall Circumstances, obvious to the meanest capacities. The English (although they had but slender parts, to Act in this Tragy-Comedy) are notwithstanding brought upon the Stage. Oliver Cromwell, the late Tyrant (the Darling

Con-

Confederate of France) upon notice given him of the Design, under the ſpecious pretence of aſſiſting an Allie (but in reallity upon ſolid motives of pure charity, which always begins at home) was very fairly ſetting up for himſelf: but wiſely foreſeeing the fatall conſequence of the loſſe of ſo Potent a Friend (whoſe countenance in that

that conjuncture of affairs was so absolutely necessary to him for the carrying on the Godly work of Reformation of our English *Nation*) *he thought good to let his particular Pretensions fall to the ground; and to abandon the whole Booty to the* French; *who* (*upon confidence of the infallibility of their Minister of State*, ponebat

nebat enim rumores ante salutem) were already dividing the spoil of the field; which, what that might amount to upon an improved value, I know not, but as matters were handled, it will appear by the ensuing Narrative, that the chief Adventurers drew Blanks; It being evident to all Europe, that his Eminence himself (notwithstanding his

his parturiunt montes, *&c.) had at last caught a* Tartar. Reader, *to detain thee longer with these Marginal Notes, were to trespass too much upon thy patience, so that I am obliged, by the rules of common Civility, to conclude my Comment, and to refer thee to the Text it self; having nothing farther to add, but to tell thee, that I do here pre-*

sent

sent thee with a piece of
fine Spanish Cloath; how
it will wear turned, I
know not. Figures reverse
(however they may re-
tain their proportions)
lose much of their native
Beauty.

Farewell.

A

A LETTER

From a perſon of Worth, to his Friend, upon the *Succeſs* of

OSTEND,

On the 14 of *May*, in the Year *M DC LVIII.*

SIR,

I SHOULD not deſerve that particular and moſt ineſtimable Title of *Friend*, nor comply with the Laws of Friendſhip, much leſs with my Obligations, (owing you many) if I did not by this early

account make you the first acquainted with the happy success, of one of the strangest and most extravagant Actions that ever was done in War: well may I term it so, since 'tis not to be parallel'd either in Antient or Modern History. For although, properly speaking, it were in it self a Stratagem or Artifice of War, yet was it diversified with such various passages of Tragedy and Farse, so gratefully mix'd and pleasantly interwoven, that it might serve for a fit subject to some ingenious Pen, to compose an excellent Comedy. I doubt not but the thunderings of the Cannon, with the confused Relations of many Straglers, did much heighten the curiosity and admiration of all people, and make them swell big with expectation of the event of so sudden and unexpected an Accident. But there is no man can give a more faithful and exact Relation of all that pass'd, nor upon surer grounds than my self; it falling to my share to play one of the most

most principal Parts in this Comedy, a Part as dangerous in the Acting, as it was pleasant in the Conclusion. What motive his * *Highness* had to engage me (who can no ways pretend to that noble quality of Souldier) in this Military employment, I cannot conceive; it seems they were pleased to believe that I was Master of more cunning than force, and thought I could piece out the Lion's skin with the Fox's tail. God he knows, I was altogether uncapable, of my self; however it was his blessed will to bring me off from this Engagement with Honour and Reputation, as he had done from many others, wherein, to their great satisfaction, I had served both his Majesty and his Highness. Give me leave, Sir, to tell you, 'tis worthy your reflection to consider, what a May-game Fortune makes of the Successes of War, and how from slender

* Don John of Austria, then Governour of Flanders, who is meant by his Highness in all this Relation.

and unexpected accidents there do frequently arise such prodigious disorders, as do threaten the immediate ruine of a State. You may likewise observe, how the profoundest Statesmen (notwithstanding their reservedness and precaution, on which they so much rely) do, by ill taking their measures, precipitate themselves into irreparable errors. But that you may the better come to the conclusion of this business, I shall draw it from the fountain-head.

I doubt not, Sir, but that you have either known or heard of Colonel *Spintelet*, a Native of this Province, who obtained his Commission by his deserts: He was a person of known valour, and one that was no less able to contrive designs, than brisk in the execution of them. This Gentleman was forced to flie the *Low-countries* upon the death of an inferiour Officer of Justice, whom he had killed; and being out of all hopes of obtaining his pardon,

don, he was resolved to try his fortune in foreign Countries. When he took his leave of his friends (the last comfort of a banished man) he told one *Monsieur de Boeq*, a Counsellor at Law, with whom he had a strict amity, That true it was he was going for *France*, but withall he protested upon the word of an honest man, that he would never draw his sword against his King and Liege Lord, notwithstanding he despaired of ever-returning to his own house. And with these or the like protestations he embarqued for *Zealand*.

About this same time began Cardinal *Mazarini* to hammer upon the anvil of his brain some new design for the surprising of *Ostend*, having failed in a former attempt in *June* 1648, which had then been set on foot by *Monsieur d' Estrades*, *Monsieur Servient*, and one *Gentilot* who served under the States General of the United Provinces in the Regiment of *Monsieur d' Estrades*; a fair pretext and colour

for him to pass to and fro betwixt *Holland* and *France*, taking his way by *Ostend* and other Maritime places down to *Calais*, where he had his house and friends. This *Gentilot* being skilful in Fortifications, had observed a notable defect in the Works of *Ostend*, near unto the place where they used to disembarque from the Boats of *Bruges*; and where he thought it most obnoxious to a surprise. There was a little Tavern built of Boards (for the harbouring of Marriners and other Day-labourers) upon the Cay, at the point of a Bulwark that commanded all within the Haven. This house was so built upon piles, that it took up half the principal Ditch, from whence with a Ladder, or upon Planks, one might (without difficulty) pass dry-foot to the aforesaid Bulwark. This house was capable of lodging 200 men with ease, and in my opinion 'twas very feasible to have surprised us at unawares, by coming on shore as *Hollanders*, and sheltring them-

themselves in the aforesaid houses; we having been so remiss and negligent as not to take notice of it before. This Plot was chiefly managed by one *William Tressan* a Native of *Dunkirk*, who made his escape out of the Town about three or four days before it was surrendred to us in the year, 1652.

The Cardinal (with those of his Counsel,) re-assuming this design, dispatcht *Gentilot* to learn, whether there was any alteration made in the Fortifications since the year 1648. attributing their former ill success, either to the backwardness, or treachery, of the *Count de Ranssau*. Oh miserable condition of Envy, thus (upon the least miscarriage) to calumniate the most Heroick actions, and to traduce the reputation of so great a Souldier, in recompence of all his services done for the Crown of *France*!

Being well informed that no alteration had been made in the Fortifications, and that the *Spaniards* (appre-

hending no danger from thence, were wholly attentive to the prefent motion of the *French* Army) they refolved to find out a fit perfon to carry on their deſign, and ſuch an one as had correſpondence and intelligence in the Town, that he might give ſuch notice of the ſtate of affairs, as ſhould be neceſſary for their purpoſe.

Gentilot met by chance with one *Irvine Yterſun* (Brother to the above-named *William*) who was then in *Paris*, following his own buſineſs in quality of a Merchant. This honeſt man was baniſhed hence, as being ſuſpected to be privy to his Brother's practices, although in truth he was of other Principles, and did totally abhor them, however he did diſſemble it, being in an enemie's country. *Gentilot* was confident this man would be glad of the occaſion of doing ſome remarkable ſervice for *France*, the better to eſtabliſh and ſupport the Credit his Brother had amongſt them: wherefore being fully inſtructed

brought into the presence of the Cardinal, and of others his most secret Counsellours; where his Eminence did (with many perswasions, and large promises, wherein he shewed himself a Doctor of the Chair) so far prevail seemingly upon this *Ytersun*, as to engage him to use his best endeavours in finding out some person that might be fit to transact this business, with that secrecy, and caution as was requisite.

I have already told you that this *Livine* did detest the action his Brother was engaged in, of which he had not the least notice; and he did verily believe God Almighty had sent him this intelligence; as a means to do his King some service, by which he might merit his pardon, and return to his Family, the thing in the world he most desired; for by giving information of what he knew, he supposed he should be re-call'd from an exile, which he suffered for the crimes of another man; he likewise

thought that by this occasion he might be serviceable to Colonel *Spintelet*, for whom he had a particular kindness.

With this intention, and with his former dissimulation, he returned (being accompanied with *Gentilot*) to the Cardinal, promising him to present him with a person very proper for the execution of such a design; a man of courage and experience, one that, to purchase a reputation, and to make a fortune, would check at nothing. He added withal, that his Eminence might confide in him, in regard he was in despair of ever returning into his own Country, much less into the Kings Service, having committed murder on an Officer of Justice.

Here began the Comedy, and this was the first Scene; for till now, *Spintelet* was never spoken of, nor so much as his name known in *France*. There was a large character given of his person, extolling to the Skies his wit and courage, and not omitting the cause, I have

have told you of his banishment. They finding (by what had been said of him) that he was fit for their purpose, forthwith commanded *Livine* to seek him out with diligence, and with all possible speed, to bring him to *Paris*.

Colonel *Spintelet* was at this present in *Zealand*, where *Livine* met with him, and having with great privacy conferred together of all that had passed with the Cardinal and the rest at *Paris*, they agreed at last (like honest men, laying hold on this occasion) to advertise his Highness of what had happened, hoping at the same time, both to gain his favour and discharge their own duties; but being resolved to put a cheat upon the Cardinal, whom they knew eagerly bent upon the surprizing of *Ostend*, they deferred the giving his Highness intelligence, till they had been at *Paris*, and absolutely engaged his Eminence in this Chimera, and seen him lanch't forth into the Main, that they might give a more solid and exact

accompt

account of all; and try if by making him greedy of that Bait, they might possibly decoy him into the Net, which within a few months after they brought to pass.

They had not been three hours in *Paris*, when meeting with *Gentilot*, they were brought immediately to his Eminence, where, close shut up with Monsieur *D' Estrades* and *Servient*, they held a large conference upon the whole business; which debate being continued two or three several days, ended in a resolution of leaving the management, and modelling of the design wholly to *Spintelet*, who (pretending a necessity of speaking with some Confidents of his) alleadged, it would be very convenient for him to go back into *Zealand*, & that having disposed businesses there, he would return and give his Eminence a farther accompt. The Cardinal made him an offer of money, Passeport, and Convoy; the money (to confirm his Eminence the more) he refused, but accepted both Passeport and Convoy.

With

With these kind expressions and offers, the Cardinal thinking he had made all sure; he charged him to pass by *London*, giving him Credential-letters to the Protector, either, because he knew the need he should have of *English* Vessels, or not daring to make so great an attempt, without giving him notice, in regard of the strict League that was between them.

These men found not such a Reception from the Protector as they imagined, for he shewed a great distrust of their discourse, either, because he did not desire the *French* should make such a progress in *Flanders*, or that he knew more than his Eminence, being more distrustful, and having been bred up in a different School. *Spintelet*, perceiving by his ambiguous and unsignificant Answers, that he did not swallow the Bait kindly, and that he could not gain upon him by his wiles (for his aime was to Trapan them both) he resolved to return to *Zealand*, whence he wrote a Letter to the

the Councellour *De Bocq*, preſſing him to meet him at *Sluce*; for that he had a buſineſs to impart to him that did highly import his Majeſties ſervice.

In this interim there came daily ſecret advices from *France* and *England* to his Highneſs, by which he was aſſured there was a great deſign hatching againſt ſome place upon the Sea Coaſt; for ſome gave him notice that Colonel *Spintelet* had been ſeen to enter into the Cardinals Lodgings at very late hours; others, that he had been in *England*, and there had reſorted, as late in the night, to the Protector's. And knowing that the Colonel had frequented no places ſo much as thoſe near the Sea, they gueſs'd his deſign muſt lye that way. There came ſeveral advices of the ſame nature to his Majeſty of *Great Britain*, who reſiding at that time in *Bruges*, communicated them to me, that his Highneſs might be advertiſed of them; beſides, it was made very evident by the intercepting of ſeveral *Engliſh* Letters, which came

ſo

so thick, that the Governours of those places were thereupon particularly warned to stand upon their guard, and had three thousand men sent to re-inforce them. This was the cause that the * *Courlings* remain'd so long in *Ostend*, upon the Countries charge, of which there were lamentable complaints made to his Highness, and the Marquisse of *Caracena*; Whence you may learn that those who govern have always particular reasons to themselves for all their actions, which we ought not to pry into nor censure.

* The Country Militia.

Councellour *de Bocq* was in *Bergen St. Winoxe* (where he dwelt) when he received this Letter from Colonel *Spintelet*, which he did immediately communicate to the Marquis of *Leede*, General by Sea and Governour of *Dunkirk*, the only person of Authority that was at hand; desiring to know, whether he did approve of his giving him a meeting; and informing the Marquis with-

withall of the discourse they two had had upon the Colonels going for *France*. The Marquisse presently commanded him, that without delay, he should go away to *Sluce*, to hear what he had to propose; for there could be no harm in hearing any propositions, since amongst many that are alleadged by such people, there often falls out somewhat of advantage, and 'tis always in the power of him that Governs to do what he thinks best.

De Boeq being come to *Sluce*, had a large relation made him by his friend, of all that had pass'd with the Cardinal and the rest at *Paris* touching the design on foot, all which the Counsellour set down in writing; and the Colonel added to all the particulars, that, if his Highness would give him leave, and be pleas'd to assist (the Cardinal being already so eager upon it, by the hopes he had put him in) he would insensibly plunge him into so great a mischief, and the King should receive so considerable

able a service, as he hoped would enclline his Majesty to grant him the grace he so passionately desired, which was to return to his own Country; for although 'tis an ordinary saying, *Omne solum forti patria*, yet is there no home so sweet as a man's own.

De Bocq did very much commend them for proceeding with so much zeal and fidelity, assuring them, it was the only way they could pitch upon, both to return home with honour and reputation, and also to deserve a recompence (a great satisfaction to people in disgrace to be able to work themselves out of the briers by serving their Prince) and thereby to obtain not only favour and honour, but withall to gain preferment. They took leave the one of the other, with a resolution to meet again, exchanging Notes and Ciphers for the carrying on a correspondency.

De Bocq went away immediately to *Brussels*, where he gave an accompt at large of all that had passed to his Highness,

ness, who recommended to him in the first place secresie, in the second he gave him charge to feed his friends still with hopes, whilst he considered what was to be done for the future; for Princes (as wise men hold) ought not to be carried away with the first reports, but to weigh them throughly, if their time will permit: But above all his Highness commanded him to hasten to *Ostend*, and to inform the Governour of what had passed, that he might be ready to prevent any inconveniency that might interfere, with the intelligence given him by *de Bocq*, a timely and necessary precaution. There was then Governour of the Town *Don Barnabe de Vargas Machuca*, Knight of the Order of Saint *Jago* a Master of the Camp, and Serjeant Major General, who raised himself by his valour (having run through all the Offices of the *Spanish* Infantry) to this eminent charge; a person fit for higher imployments.

De

De Ruy was not long in going to Ostend, where he much surprised the Governour with this Relation; who making reflections upon the Fortifications of the place, especially of that little Tavern formerly spoken of, found the business to be really of Concern, and that our Enemies had not ill observed that notorious defect. So he immediately caus'd the little house to be thrown down, which being done in half an hour, he planted new Palisadoes on the Counter-scarp, with Barriers; he likewise built a Redoubt of Stone at the point of the Cay, capable of holding fifty Musquetteers with security. In fine, he did (according to his accustomed care and diligence) all that military experience could suggest to him, for the safety of the place; so that having a recruit of men sent him, he made all sure on that part.

The news of the alteration of the Fortifications was quickly buzz'd into the ears of the *Mazarinites*, who were all

all this while hatching of rotten eggs treating with the Colonel of Chimera's, and building Castles in the Air yet notwithstanding they thought the business cock-sure. At this they were much startled, and upon the point of desisting, when *Spintelet* (who had his arguments ready at his fingers ends) dissembling the business with a cheerful countenance, began to lay a new Trap for them; he wished them to be of good courage, and bad them not to doubt of seeing *Ostend* very suddenly in the hands of his most Christian Majesty; for that it was an usual thing with all Governours, upon their first coming to their Government, to be tampering, and to alter something in the Fortifications, every one according to his own Capricho, and skill. That although the taking of the Town by the way that had then been laid, was very practicable; yet since there was no remedy, there was a necessity of finding out some other expedient,

which he had at hand, very easie and safe, without either charge or hazard of men; and he assured them, that as soon as he had received some Letters, which he pretended to expect from *Brussels*, he would then acquaint them both with the manner and method; and perceiving they began to give an ear to his discourse, he requested of them onely three or four days time, intending in the interim to learn his Highness pleasure what was to be done for the future.

The Frenchmen all this while never suspected Counsellor *de Bocq*, who always kept them company, and passed as a Kinsman of the Colonels, by the name of *Monsieur Stappin*, and so making them believe that he sent him to *Ostend* to negotiate the business, *de Bocq* went directly to *Brussels* to receive instructions from his Highness. He made a quick return from thence, with private Orders from his Highness, that they should lay their heads together to

agree

agree betwixt themselves how (by amusing and cajolling them) to draw them into a snare. And the Colonel having assured them that this was a person they might as safely rely upon as upon himself, they did not in the least distrust him.

The Colonel did declare to them that he had two Kinsmen of his and his Wife's in *Ostend*, Captains of the *Wallon* Foot, and that there was another, who was within two or three days to enter into the Town with his Company, who although he were not allied to him, yet he was an intimate friend, in whom he did entirely confide; that these parties were very weary of the *Spanish* service, in regard their Arrears were kept back, and that many other affronts were put upon them by the Governour, and that they desired nothing more (if occasion served) than to quit their employment, and to follow Fortune where ever she led them; that for many months he had fed them with

with hopes, & he believ'd them very ripe for mutiny, as well to relieve their necessities (having spent themselves to their shirts in maintaining their Companies) as to revenge the injuries they had receiv'd. That they had above 400 men in their three Companies, all old Souldiers, being the remainder of his Regiment, who much covered to return under his command. That in *Ostend* there were but few *Spaniards*, and those very feeble and heartless, yet they did so tyrannize over the poor neighbouring people, that many of them daily quitted their habitations; and if those that did remain could but meet with any reasonable conditions, one might infallibly dispose of the one and the other, and that if any party did but appear in the Haven, and present themselves before the Town, they would receive them in, and shake off the *Spanish* yoke. To this intent they were to make Capitulations with the Neighbours and Towns-men; and as

to

to the Soldiers, that should be his care. But that they might not think slightly of the design, he prepared them with a discourse of three or four conditions which without doubt were such as would soonest inveigle them. The first thing they were to promise to the Neighbours, was, that there should be no other than the Roman Catholick Religion exercised in that place. Secondly, That they would maintain the antient Privileges and Customs of the Town, that they would pay the Soldiers all the Arrears due to them from the King of *Spain*, as soon as they should be Masters of the Place, but not before. As for their own recompence and those that belonged to them, they would wholly rely upon his Christian Majesty, and his Eminence, with whom they would not capitulate as to their particular interest, alledging that so brave a King and so great a Minister could not but reward them according to the merits of their service.

These

These discourses did relish so well with those who managed the Cardinal's business, that they presently rode away to *Paris* to give an accompt of them; and returned very suddenly, loaden with instructions and promises, much larger than the first. Neither did ours sleep the while, but were as busie with his *Highness*; of whom they begg'd leave, that they might make use of two Captains names, *Harus* and *Steyrs*, notwithstanding they themselves were wholly ignorant of the business: That, in case the *French-men* should make enquiry by any other means, whether there were such Captains in *Ostend*, they might find all things to agree in what *Spintelet* told them.

Having procured this permission from his Highness, *de Bocq* departed with Monsieur *de Winter* (brother-in-law to *Spintelet*, one that had no slender part to act in this Farce) and with another of his acquaintance, who repre-

ſented the two aforeſaid Captains. There needed not much Rhetorick to perſwade theſe *French-men*, that there was no manner of doubt of effecting whatever the Colonel had propoſed to them; with which they were ſo tranſported, that they diſpatched away a Meſſenger of their own, with the news to the Cardinal, who was ſo tickled with the hopes of ſucceſs, that his anſwer (mixt with new promiſes) ſeemed to be brought back with the Wind, it came ſo ſpeedily.

They did with an unanimous conſent agree, that from thence forward only *de Bocq* (or, to ſpeak more properly, *Stappin*, for that was the name they knew him by) ſhould write all the Letters of thoſe Captains and Confederates to the Colonel, and from the Colonel to them; and that he ſhould be the ſole director of the Conſpiracy, as being the beſt Scholar, the readieſt at his pen, and one that was the leaſt to be ſuſpected in regard his buſineſs lay in

several places. Having thus disposed their affairs, and having procured a Passeport for Monsieur *de Witte* and Captain *Spruit* (who went by the names of *Horns* and *Sneyers*) they parted for that time, each man pretending to follow his own occasions.

About this time, Marshall *Turene* having newly taken Saint *Venant*, and *Montmedy*, came with his Victorious Army to *Watten*, from whence he wrote letters to the Cardinal, to signifie to him that great Crisis; and to let him know, that he was then upon the point of making himself Master of all *Flanders*, in case the Confederates, whom they had mentioned to him, were prepared to perform their part. The Cardinal hereupon gave speedy notice of this to his Creatures, that they might be in a readiness, with the Colonel and the rest of the Cabal, to put their design in execution. Upon this, *Sirtelet* desired some time to acquaint his Camarades with it, and in the interim dispatches a

Messenger of his own to Counsellour *de Bocq*, to inform his *Highness* how things were, and to know what answer he would please they should make. His *Highness*'s Will being known, *de Bocq* wrote (as from the Confederates) that it was impossible to do the work at present, in regard there were 2, or 3000. Boors that were fled for shelter into *Ostend*, for fear of the *French* Army; so they humbly besought his *Eminence*, that he would in no sort permit the Army to advance upon any expedition into that Province; for so long as the Peasantry were refug'd in those Garrisons, they kept double Guards, and we being not Masters of the Field, should be forced to draw our men into them, which would absolutely ruin the design that was so well contriv'd. Upon this, Mareshall *Turene* had orders, not to attempt *Linque*, *Mardique*, nor *Bergben*, those places being thought of small importance, that the Army might consume it self upon them, and this fair oppor-

portunity be slipt; and that if once *Ostend* were taken, those other places with *Dunkirk* and *Newport* would fall in of themselves, since 'twas certain the *Spaniards* would be forced to abandon them. It was likewise urged, that the Army might have strict Orders to demean themselves fairly, and to use the Country people civilly, so that they might be encouraged to return home to their own houses, by which means *Ostend* would be cleared of them, and all lets removed that could retard their design. There was a Gentleman dispatcht away to the *Cardinal*, with a particular relation of what posture their business was in. These reasons before mentioned, with what the Messenger added of his own head, concerning the great confidence he left them in of compassing their ends; did so far prevail with his *Eminence*, that he sent away two Posts, one at the heels of the other, with express orders to Marshal *Turene* not to dislodge the Army from their

preſent ſtation, nor to engage upon any deſign, till they ſaw what this Treaty would come to. 'Twas as clear as day, that the Cardinal had ſwallowed the Bait, and that his orders were punctually obſerved by the Mareſhall; for in ſix weeks after, he permitted not a man to ſtir out of his Quarters, notwithſtanding the great hardſhip they ſuffered, but kept them in as cloſe as if they apprehended the beating up of their Quarters. At this all *France* and *Flanders* ſtood amazed, except only ſuch who were privy to the Intrigue.

In the mean time the Cardinal did by letters urge thoſe that were in *Zealand* to expedite the buſineſs; they likewiſe earneſtly preſſed *Spinelet*, who was now put to his trumps, being deſtitute of further excuſes for delay: At laſt having failed of an anſwer to two or three letters, which he wrote to *de Bocy* concerning the buſineſs, and finding the date of the Paſſeport, he had from his *Highneſs*, ready to expire; he reſolved

to go towards *Bruges* to inform himself where *de Bocq* was, and to find out a conveniency of sending letters to him, and to learn from him his *Highness* pleasure for the future. Whereupon, under pretence of going to conferre with his Associates (and to give them notice of the haste his *Eminence* desired them to make) he took leave of the *French-men* for four or five days, with a firm resolution of returning within that time; and so he came to the Suburbs of *Bruges*, which they call *Schipstael*.

It so happened (to his misfortune) that there was no Field-officer of the Army then there; wherefore *Spintelet*, knowing me to be well acquainted with Councellour *de Bocq*, though I could inform him where he was, as likewise that by my interest at Court, I could either get his Passeport renewed, or at leastwise know what it was his Highness would have to be done. To this end he (knowing that I dwelt there) sent a Towns-man to me, a friend of his,

to desire me to come privately to him to conferre about some matters of great importance.

I (who looked upon him as a notorious Rebell, engaged in the highest Treason imaginable; and found that he was of a turbulent spirit, by the letters which were intercepted by the King of *England*'s Ministers, who did then reside there; as likewise by the Spies which I maintained in *Sluce* to pry into his designs, of which I had already advertized his *Highness*, and the Marquis of *Caracena*; who without disabusing me, or acquainting me with any thing of what had passed between them, did highly commend my care and zeal, commanding me to continue all possible vigilancy, and to give them notice of what I could discover of his Plots, and to inform the Governours of the Maritime Towns) I could not, I say, think it safe for me to communicate alone with so suspected a person, whom I knew to be imploy'd about some dangerous

gerous design; wherefore, to comply with my duty, I desired both the assistance of the Magistrates of *Bruges*, under whose jurisdiction I was; and likewise leave from the chief of the *Franc* to apprehend him, supposing I should do his Majesty an especial piece of Service, in securing such a person, and giving his *Highness* notice of it.

It was thought fit that the Scout of the Town, together with the chief Burgomaster, the Serjeant Major of the Count *de Megem*, and some other Captains, should bring him in a Coach to the house of the *Franc*, which was done in less than half an hours space. Consider, Sir upon how weak a Basis human designs are built: for whil'st *Spintelet* on his part, and I on mine (both with an equal zeal) thought to do for the best, we were in a moment like to have destroyed so great a Business.

The Colonel, foreseeing that if his being clapt up were divulged (otherwise he valued not his being in hold)

it would be the cause of the miscarriage of the Plot, which he conceived so well laid; he resolved to disclose to me the bottom of the Secret, supposing that I, receiving it from his own mouth, would give credit to it, and thereupon dismisse him; whereby his imprisonment, not being further noised, would not come to the knowledge of those in *Zealand*. But thanks be to God I was not ignorant, that it was neither convenient, nor safe, to hear singly the secrets of any suspected person, wherefore I refused it, unless there were present some sufficient witness, that could at any time attest our discourse; and both of us agreeing upon Monsieur *de Blend*, the *Greffier, and chief Pensioner of the Town, who was near at hand; we passed our words each to other to observe secresie, upon which he laid open to me the whole Stratagem at large.

*Or Register.

The news of the imprisonment of the Traytor *Spintelet*, being in an instant spread

spread all over the Country, did very much trouble those in *Zealand*, who waited his return with great impatience. They fail'd not to advertise the Count *de Chanau*, Governour of *Calais*, who immediately dispatched one to Marshall *Turene* with the ill news.

But to return to our Prisoner: Upon our questioning him what papers he had about him, we found one Passeport from the *French* King, with the names of the aforesaid Captains, and another from *Don John*, which heightned our distrust, to see the Dispatches of two opposite Princes directed to one person; so 'twas agreed, that I should write to the Marquis of *Caracena* (in my accustomed Cypher to his Excellence) all that had been related to us by the Colonel; and that the Greffier should set down, in a particular paper, what had been said by me; and that in the interim while we expected an answer, we should lodge the Colonel in the Town-prison, for fear

of

of the worſt, not daring upon our own ſcore, to truſt him in any private houſe.

His *Highneſs*, and his *Excellence*, who were then at *Dunkirk*, were highly diſſatisfied with this news which was brought them by a Paſſe from the Priſon. But ſeeing that on our part we acted with integrity, and that what was done, could not be undone (I believe they now repented their not acquainting me with their tranſactions, conſidering the daily advices I gave them of the private meetings that their Enemies had with the Colonel in *Zealand*, and knowing that I had pitch't my Net to catch him, being encouraged to it by them;) at laſt they reſolved, with all diligence, to ſend Counſellour *de Bocq* to me, with an Order to deliver him up the Priſoner, with ſome pretext of his having broke priſon.

There happened an accident to *de Bocq* in this journey, which was like to put a period both to the buſineſs and to his life: For coming into *Newport* (and paſſing

passing at a late hour through the Town to save his Tide, that he might get with speed to *Ostend*) he unhappily met with the round of the Guards of some of the Country-people, who upon these Alarums were lodged all along the Sea coast, with order to take or kill whosoever should be found to be walking late upon the Downs, or on the Sands, without the Watch-word; so that he escaped narrowly of being knockt on the head by these Boors. But he giving them to understand, that he knew several of the Officers under whose Command they were (having pillaged and drybatted him) they drag'd him about half a league to Monsieur *de Blome* * *Eschevind* of the *Franc*, who knowing him rescued him out of their unmercifull hands; and so half dead with their ill usage, he made a shift to reach *Ostend*; where causing himself to be let blood, after a short conference with the Governour, he got out of Town about four of the clock, and

* Sheriffe.

came

came to my house early; where, according to my Orders, we consulted of some means to free *Spintelet* from prison, without giving any ground of jealousie that we understood one another.

There was a Wagon provided to wait them at the shutting of the gates, that they might go together to *Dunkirk*, but it was a hard task to find any pretext that would take with the City, to make them credit the escape of so notorious a person; wherefore to disguise the business the more, it was noised abroad, that there had been a drinking-frollick amongst the prisoners, and that in a drunken humour they had forced the Keeper and his Domesticks; and that the Colonel, with several prisoners for debt, had made their escape. The Goaler going three or four days about the Town with his head bound up, as if he had really been wounded, and soliciting of friends to mediate with the Magistrates for him, that he might not for this neglect lose his place (which the

the more to amuse the world was threatned) it seemed all was done that possibly could in such a case.

Here it was that I first began to unriddle the mystery, and to dive unto the bottome of the design, which none of this Town, nor of those Magistrates knew, till many months after they found by the success, with what dexterity and cunning the business had been carried on.

As soon as ever the news came to Marshall *Turene*, that *Spintelet* was taken prisoner, he gave the design of surprizing *Ostend* for lost; and without waiting for further orders from Court, he advanced with his Army to *Mardike*, of which he became Master in a few days. At the same time Colonel *Spintelet* returned to *Zealand*, disguised with a false beard, and a strange habit; and, with many smooth and quaint discourses, related to them the particulars of his miraculous Escape, convincing them with evident circumstances, shewing them letters of greater assurances than

ever

ever they had of compaſſing their deſign, and arguing that it was apparent that God Almighty permitted it ſhould come to paſſe, and co-operated with them, ſince he had ſo wonderfully delivered him out of the clutches of his enemies: Moreover, that during the time that he lay ſecretly in *Bruges* (where likewiſe were many male-contents) he had been viſited by ſome of his Confederates, who had given him ſuch hopes of good ſucceſs, that it was infallible, in caſe Marſhall *Turene* would withdraw his Army, and not advance upon any other deſign, or continue in thoſe parts; for that would give ſuch jealouſie to his *Highneſs* and the Generals, that to ſecure thoſe places they would certainly draw the body of the Army into them, not being ſtrong enough to keep the Field and then it would be impoſſible to effect their deſign. To confirm them the more, he ſhewed them letters from Councellour *de Bocq*, who (as I told you before)

went.

went under the name of *Stappin*, and chief of the Conspirators, alleadging the same reasons on their part, which he constantly received from his *Highness* to spin out time, and to delude the *French* with expectation.

His *Highness* commanded me at the same time (going to *Dunkirk* about some business) that upon my return to *Bruges*, I should, if it were possible, see the Colonel, without giving any suspicion, or being seen at *Sluce*, whither I was to go. Being come thither, by a private message I sent to him, I easily contrived our meeting out of the Town, to know of him how the *French* stood affected, and what they thought of his escape, and whether they persisted in what they had begun. His *Highness*'s chiefest care being how to make his advantage by prolonging the execution of the Plot they were so fond of.

The Colonel knew so well to cajole them, and his arguments were so efficacious, that they were more confident than

than ever of their designs, and so prevalent were the letters which were shewn them from *de Bocq*, that they sent away a Messenger of their own with them to the Cardinal, in whom they made no lesse impression; for he immediately dispatch'd away an Express to the Marechall, that whether *Mardike* were taken or not taken, he should suddenly without losing time retire on this side the River *A*. The Marechall punctually obeyed his orders, without stopping at any inconveniency, though the ways in those parts were so spoiled by the continual rains, and the waters so deep, that the passages were inaccessible. Some of his Cannon, with above a thousand Carts and Carriages, were left in the mire; besides there mouldred away more than three thousand of his men in this retreat, which made all *France* and *Flanders* astonished at this sudden Action.

The Cardinal was not backward in making his complaints to his correspon-

dents

dents in *Zealand*, that at the request of the Colonel and his associates, he had withdrawn the Army, and done on his part all that was required of him, pressing them to avoid all delayes on their side, adding fresh offers of money, with promises of great rewards. These letters past'd from *Spinteler's* hands to *de Bocq*, and from his were with speed conveyed to his *Highness* for fresh instructions.

It being very necessary to find out some new pretence for delays, to carry the cheat on the better; his *Highness* thought fit that *de Bocq* should, in the name of the Confiderates, write to the Colonel that all things were now ready for action, and that they were highly satisfied to find their design so infallible; and it being likewise requisite that they on their part should forecast and provide all things possible, there rested but one scruple or let which they suspected might impede their proceedings, for they said they studied night and day to remove all obstructions. But this

was

was of great importance, That the *English* Ships which did ride before *Ostend*, might at the very instant that the business was to be put in execution, hinder the *French* Boats from coming in, detaining them perchance three or four tides, till they had acquainted the Protector with it; especially, being nettled that they had no share in the enterprise, which would undoubtedly disappoint their so much wish'd for expedition, with the hazard of the lives and fortunes of all such as should be found in the Town to have had a hand in it; therefore 'twas expedient to require Passeports of the *Protectour*, and orders for his Ships to give all requisite assistance, which in regard of the strict League and Amity betwixt them, would not be hard to obtain.

This obstacle was signified by an express Messenger called *Payen*, the *French* Preacher of *Dover*, who had been engaged in the business: The Cardinal found this so necessary to be redress'd, that

that he sent away this *Payen* to *London* to Monsieur *de Bourdeaux*, who was the *French* King's Ambassadour there; charging him to give the *Protectour* speedy notice of the design, and to procure such dispatches from him, as *Payen* should tell him were necessary.

But *Oliver Cromwell*, not confiding in *Payen's* relation, thinking the business to be absolutely dash'd by the imprisonment of *Spintelet* (the news of which was quickly spread abroad) and desiring to inform himself more particularly, he sent for *Payen* late one night to examine the matter; who recounting to him by degrees all that the Colonel had made him believe, he did so smoothly and cunningly set forth the whole business, and made it appear so practicable, that *Cromwell* was tickled with the thoughts of it, and began to deal with *Payen* to change the Scene, and to act for the interest of the *Commonwealth* of *England*; at last he wonn *Payen* wholly to himself, having out-brib'd the Cardinal by a Bar

and

and a half, and so it 'twas agreed upon between themselves, that *Payen* should go over into *Zealand* to negotiate with *Spinelet*.

The Minister (by vertue of an Order from the *Protectour*) found a vessel of 30. pieces of ordnance ready in the *Downs* to transport him into *Zealand*, with instructions, credentials, and all possible allurements, which he thought might work with *Spinelet* and his Camarades; offering much more ample, and advantageous conditions than the Cardinal. The Minister, coming into *Zealand*, by making some excuse, dissembled to his Companions his going over to *Sluce* to treat on the behalf of the *Protectour*, contrary to the trust and confidence repos'd in him by the Cardinal. So slight is the faith of many of that Nation, & so prevalent a devil is money.

The Minister was not backward in soliciting the Colonel, shewing him his large Commission and Instructions, which reached to mountains of gold. The

Colonel

Colonel overjoyed at this occasion of new delays, answered, very cunningly, that he could not treat alone without *Stappin* and the other Confederates; wherefore he required some time, which was the most his *Highness* expected from that business. The said *de Bourg* going with speed to *Brussels*, to give his *Highness* this fresh intelligence, was commanded with all possible artifice to embrace the *Protector's* motion, making shew as if he did entirely dedicate the design to him, entertaining him with treating of conditions; so he returned with all diligence to *Sluce*, pretending to come from *Ostend*, with the resolution of the other Confederates; and having intercourse since with *Puyen*, after many demands and answers (that he might not seem to sell his wares at too too low a rate) they came at last to agree, That the Town of *Ostend*, and whatever depended on it, should be put into the *Protector's* possession, he not disturbing, nor dis-

quiet-

quieting them in their Religion; and that for the exercise of Calvinism they might take any house in the Town, but not meddle with any of the Churches, and that they should pay down upon the nail one hundred thousand pound Sterling; but as for the gratifying *Snappin*, and the other Officers, that should be left wholly to the *Protectour's* discretion. There was one Monsieur *de winter* (Brother-in-law to *Spintelet*) who did not a little contribute to the striking up of this Bargain, passing under the name of Captain *Horus*, whose part he had acted, before he became the Go-between, and Broker in this affair.

The Minister returns with these Articles into *England*, whence he presently wrote to *Spintelet*, how well he was received by the *Protectour*, who had ratified all the Capitulations, and was now dispatching him to finish the work, and that he would be with him within very few days.

The

The French Embaſſadour being ſubtil, found (by the *Protectour*'s delaying thoſe diſpatches for which he ſolicited) that he treated the buſineſs for himſelf; whereupon he ſent away an Expreſs to the *Cardinal* with his ſenſe, who commanded him to preſſe the granting his demands: and to adde threats to them, intimating that he knew the *Protectour*'s meaning and intentions, and alleaging that it did not conſiſt with the laws of Alliance, to take a buſineſs out of his hands, which for ſix months together he had tranſacted, and look't upon it as already his own. *Payen*, perceiving the *Protectour* wax cold in the buſineſs, judging that either he feared the *Cardinal*, or that he was not found at heart; and fearing leſt they might fail with both, he wrote to the Colonel, that there was no good to be done with the *Engliſh*; therefore he ſhould be careful how he gave a jealouſie to the *Frenchmen*, or abandon thoſe that treated on the behalf of the *Cardinal*. And having

ing at the inſtance of the Embaſſadour procured diſpatches to thoſe *Engliſh* who were in the Rode, that they ſhould not obſtruct their paſſage, he returned to *Spintelet*; urging him that, now there was no farther ſcruple to be made, he would perform what he had ſo long and often promiſed; to which he could make no reply, but that he would not fail to do his part.

His *Highneſs* perceiving there was no hopes of drawing the *Engliſh* into the trap, and that they had already ſpent the Autumn and the Winter in theſe practices, and now the Spring was at hand, and that they could no longer ſpin out delays, nor find out new pretexts to deferr the execution of what the others did ſo eagerly gape after; he thought to gain ſome days by treating of Conditions to be Signed on both ſides, for as yet there was nothing of that nature in writing; ſo they agreed upon the enſuing Articles, which were intituled as followeth:

Articles

Articles by which Colonel *Spintelet* and his Confederates do agree, to deliver up the Town and Port of *Oſtend*, into the hands of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, and his Eminence Cardinal *Mazarini*; upon which his Majeſty, and his Eminence do promiſe to perform theſe Conditions following.

FIRST his Majeſty on his part ſhall be obliged to ſend eight hundred choiſe men with their Officers, which ſhall lie in the Rode, to be ready to enter the Town, upon ſuch ſign given by the Colonel, as ſhall be agreed upon. That the ſaid Officers and Souldiers (receiving the Pilots, which ſhall be ſent to them in ſmall Boats, which for that purpoſe are to be had

in a readineſs) ſhall, upon the ſign given, enter into the ſaid Haven, at ſuch place as the Colonel ſhall appoint.

That the Sieur de Roumignac (*who was ſaid to be Marſhall* de Camp) *ſhould enter at the ſame time with thoſe men, and that he ſhould bring along with him two hundred thouſand Florins, to diſtribute amongſt the Souldiery.*

This was the condition promiſed to the Souldiers and under-Officers: But you muſt alſo know (that you may the better judge how the game went) that this *Roumignac* was a Snap, which in *France* they call a *Filou*, a married man; yet notwithſtanding he had promiſed to marry the Daughter of the Colonel, who was to be left Governour of the Town: This they privately agreed upon betwixt themſelves, although the Colonel knew all his tricks well enough, and that they play'd

* Turk againſt Moor.

* *Corſario à Corſario.*

That

That these 800. men, in pursuance of the orders given them by Roumignac *and* Spintelet, *should possess themselves of the Walls and Magazins; and that there should be a Proclamation set forth, that no man, under pain of death, should enter the house of any Burgher upon what pretence soever.*

That the said Colonel should remain Governour of the place, and that all the Souldiery, Magazins, Ammunition, and whatever belonged to the Town should continue under his Command, till such time as his Majesty should have consigned into the hands of the Colonel, the summe of 400000. Crowns to be distributed amongst his Camarades; which said summe being satisfied, he was to re-deliver the place, with all that belonged to it, into the hands of the Sieur de Roumignac, *who was to keep it till farther order from his most Christian Majesty.*

That all the Towns-men, and Citizens should continue the Apostolical Roman faith, not permitting in the Town any Tem-

ple or Conventicle of what Sect soever; And also that the Town-men and Citizens, should be maintained and conserved in all their Rights, Customes, Priviledges, and Immunities, which they enjoy under the Government of the most Catholick King; and that they should continue the possession of their goods, moveables and immoveables, of what quality soever, both within and without the limits of the City.

And that all those who had been Actors in this business, and should be nominated by the said Spinteler, might passe with their families and goods to any Town of France, or to any place under the Dominion of the most Christian King; where they were to enjoy all freedome and priviledge without being subject to free-quarter, lodging of Souldiers, taxes, or impositions, which were paid by other Vassals of France; and their widdows and Children, both Sons and Daughters, should enjoy the same priviledge.

That if it should happen, that because of this service done by them, the enemies of

of France should ruin them, or fire their houses or goods of what quality soever they were, or should by way of revenge confiscate their rents; if they could make sufficient proofs of it, his Majesty should be obliged to rebuild them, and to make their losses good to them, and at his own proper cost and charges, to re-instate them in their former condition; unless his Majesty should think convenient to recompence them with equal value, and satisfie them with other goods. And that all such who should desire to reside in France, should have the priviledge of being naturalized, and made capable of bearing any Office in France, and be exempted from the forfeit of their goods to the King at their death: In fine, to be treated in all respects, without any manner of distinction, as naturall Frenchmen.

That his Majesty, as soon as they shall be Masters of the Town, do cause these Articles to be published, (in his Royall name) in the Town-house the by sound of a Bell, and to have Copies of them set upon

the Gates, and other publick places of the City.

Laſtly, that his Majeſty ſhould command two hundred thouſand Florins *more to be put into the hands of* John Gerrard *(one of the* Cardinal's *Agents) to be imployed for Ammunition, Fortifications, Victuals, and other neceſſaries; leſt the* Spaniards *ſhould return and aſſault the Town in thoſe places where the Fortifications were defective, and that the ſaid* Gerrard *ſhould be obliged to give an accompt to ſuch perſon or perſons as his Majeſty ſhould appoint; and upon his Majeſties accepting of theſe conditions, they were ready to perform what they had promiſed.*

With theſe Capitulations, which *Don John* had compoſed for his pleaſure, Councellour *de Bocq* came down to *Sluce*; and with great diſſimulation, as if he had come from *Oſtend*, he delivered a Letter, in the names of the Confederates, to thoſe Letters imployed by the *Cardinal*, which contained in ſum,

That

That whereas they were now ready, and upon the point of putting into the hands of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, ſo important a place as *Oſtend*, the only Harbour that the King of *Spain* had in theſe Countries (by which means, without either loſſe or charge, he made him Maſter of the whole Country) it was but fit that on their parts they ſhould have ſome aſſurance of the reward and ſatisfaction, which they expected from the King for the common Souldiers, to whom theſe Confederates had promiſed all their Arrears, with ſomething over and above; and they found themſelves obliged to require ſome real aſſurance thereof from the King, wherewithall to ſatisfie them; neither could they refuſe to grant them ſo juſt a requeſt, and therefore preſented thoſe Articles in their behalf; but for what concerned the Colonel, and the Captains *Horns*, *Sneyers*, and *Spruyt*, they caſt themſelves wholly upon his Majeſties goodneſs and favour.

It was necessary to send away these Capitulations presently, by one of those Agents, to the *Cardinal*, who till then thought he had to deal with fools; but finding them (at the end of 8. months time when he thought all was safe) to come out with these cross-grain'd Propositions, he had much ado to dissemble his resentment; however he cast out some expressions, as if it were not well done, after so long a time, to start other Proposals than what were proposed at first, and seemed much troubled, ere he could resolve what to do. But the Messenger played his part so well, setting forth the sincerity, and plain dealing of the *Flemmings*; that, after a few days, there came forth an Order from the King to Marshall *D' Aumont*, authorizing him, and giving him absolute power, to conclude this treaty; A Copy whereof translated, is as followeth.

To

To our dear and well-beloved Sieur D' *Aumont* Marſhall of *France*, of our Councell of State, Knight of our Orders, Colonel of the Guards of our Perſon, and Governour of our City and Caſtle of *Boloigne* with the Precincts thereof.

WHEREAS many wel-affected to our Crown have made ſeveral advantagious Overtures of deſigns and enterprizes for the good of our Kingdome; and whereas for the effecting of them, it is neceſſary to treat with them about the reward and recompence they pretend; and finding no perſon fitter than your ſelf to manage ſuch a buſineſs, by reaſon of your prudence and great experience; having had tranſactions of all ſorts of affairs paſs'd through your hands, of which you have always given a good accompt:

We

We therefore think fit to Elect, Constitute, and Depute you, as by these presents, ratified under our hand, we do Constitute and Depute you, that in Our name you do attend, consider, and examine whatever shall be proposed to you, concerning a certain secret Enterprize, that it may be carried on and effected to our service, and best advantage; and that you dispose of all things in the best manner for the compassing it, making choice of the fittest persons for it; and that you give order for all Boats, Provisions, Furniture of War, and all other necessaries. You shall likewise treat in our Royall Name, and agree upon the rewards and stipends of money, with other advantages for those that shall undertake and effect that thing; and you may engage our Royall Word, for the performance of whatever you contract with them; and so we give you full power and authority, and do promise, and assure you, we will firmly and inviolably observe in all points, whatever shall be particularly agreed upon betwixt you, without

out any revocation, because we are so pleased.

Given in *Paris*, Sealed with our sign-Manuel, the 5th. of *April* 1658.

And it was Signed LEWIS, and under that,

By the King.

Du Tellier.

These dispatches, which were sent by the *Cardinal* to the Marshall, were accompanied with large promises, and very fine words, with which his *Eminence* did abound, and was very happy in the Art of distributing of them to each man, as a lenitive to his disease: And knowing very well how the Marshall's pulse did beat, he told him, that upon the success of this design, depended his advancement, and it would be a chief motive to the King, to conferre upon him the dignity of Duke and Peer of *France*, and to entail the government of *Boloigne*, with all the *Boulonois*

Ionois upon him and his ſons. This made the Marſhall to beſtirr his ſtumps, and to make uſe of all his five Senſes (and more if he had had them) to compaſſe and bring to perfection this Deſign, which he found to be no leſſe important to the Crown of *France*, than convenient for the eſtabliſhment of his own family. You will ſee hereafter how intricate theſe deceits were, ſince *Spintelet*, being ſolely guided by the dexterity of his *Highneſs*, was able to cheat the *French*, and to put a ſlurre upon their Chief *Miniſter* of State, with the reſt of the Councel, who drew in divers others depending on them.

Theſe diſpatches were brought to the Colonel; of which Copies being taken under pretext of communicating them to the Confederates, they were ſent to his *Highneſs* to conſider of them, and to let him ſee that the enemies were in earneſt. So by his *Highneſs* order, the *Mazarinites* were told that all went well,

well, and that when the Marſhall had ſigned the aforeſaid Capitulations, and that they were confirmed by the Kings authority, and as ſoon as Captain *Spruyt's* Company was come into *Oſtend*, they would then without further delay put in execution whatwas agreed upon, and that there ſhould be a day appointed for it. We have formerly told you that theſe Captains were to recruit their Companies to 400. men, ſo that it was an eaſie matter to perſwade the *French* to believe, that theſe *Courlings*, which were brought into the Town, were the Recruits that had been ſpoken of. (and, as I take it, the *French* paid the money for the raiſing them;) which made the jeſt take ſo much the better, and the deſign took the faſter root.

Captain *Spruyt*, ſome two days after, did actually enter into *Oſtend* with his whole Company, which conſiſted but of eight men: but before he came to the Gates there were about one hundred of theſe *Courlings* joyned to them, without either

either the one or the other knowing upon what accompt. This came presently to the ears of these *Cunning Confederats*, who likewise had their double Spies under hand that were cheated as well as themselves; for, seeing the recruit to be effectually made, they laid down a sum of money to maintain them, without troubling their heads any further.

De Bocq and *Spintelet* perceiving they could now no longer by any artifices deferre the business, having first obtained leave of his *Highness*, did agree with the *Mazarinites*, that the day for action should be the fourth of *May*, in regard that on the third there was an Annuall feast in *Bruges*, upon which day they did with great solemnity celebrate the Veneration of the Reliques of the most sacred blood of Christ, which for many ages hath been the protection, and conservation of that most famous City, having upon frequent occasions defended it from eminent dangers. To this feast there does flock

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from all parts a great concourse of people, and among t the rest many Citizens and Souldiers from the Town of *Ostend*; (who are great lovers of **Kermesses*) whereupon the Town would be the thinner, and they were like to meet with less rubs in their way. The *Mazarinites* found the time and opportunity of this Holyday much to their purpose; and in order to it, leaving it fully resolved upon, one of them went to give the Marshall notice of it, that he might sign the Articles out of hand, that nothing might be wanting on his part. Councellour *de Rocq* at the same time taking his way for *Brussels*, that his *Highness* might give further order.

* Or Fairs, which are usually kept on such days.

The Marquiss of *Caracena* (seeing the *French* so eagerly bent upon the surprisal of *Ostend*) was desirous to take the advantage while their minds were upon that, to put a considerable Convoy into *Graveling*, & not being in a readiness to do it,

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he was very willing to have the busines put off, till the eleventh of the said month; but it was a difficult thing to find out new pretexts, without giving a jealousie to the Marshall, who had prepared all things in readiness to be on the third in the Rode before *Ostend*, where accordingly he did arrive. Upon which there was spread a rumour over all the Country, that he had an intention to fall upon *Flanders*; some said upon *Ostend*, others upon *Newport*, others upon the *North-forts*; some said, 'Twas only a blind (their design lying upon *Henault* and *Artois*) to draw away the Troops from thence into *Flanders*; in fine, every one shot his bolt at pleasure. Serjeant Major General *Campi* gave notice immediatly to the other States of the Provinces of the certainty of the news, to the end that (till such time as his *Highness* could take further order) they might provide against the danger with all speed; and they sent him 200. men more to perform their part.

Coun-

Councellour *de Boeq* met accidentally with a Son of Colonel *Spintelet's*, and so (to gain such time as the Marquisse desired) he wrote another letter from *Ostend*, in the name of the Confederates, dispatching away the Youth with it as far as *Gaunt* to the said *Spintelet*; by which he advertised him, that the arrival of the Marshall in the Rode of *Ostend* had alarum'd all the Country; and that there being foot and horse in the Country, designed for a Convoy to *Graveling*, they had put 400. foot, and a troop of horse into the Town; wherefore the Marquisse should not advance too forward, lest he might destroy the business; but that he should rather put off to Sea, upon which they would infallibly march forth about the 10th. or 11th. of the Month, and that then he should have notice when he might effect what they all so much desired.

These Letters were carried (with what possible speed the Colonel's Son could make) to *Sluce*; where, with much

much importunity he preſſed the *French-men*, that one of them would go away to the Mareſhall, to perſwade him to agree to it, ſince all was done for the greater caution; and, ſince the lives and fortunes of the Confederates depended on it, they beſought him that he would have patience, and not deſtroy the buſineſs for two or three days time, but that he would be pleaſed to truſt to them.

The Mareſhall was eaſily carried away with theſe apparent reaſons, upon the arrivall of this crafty companion, who of his own accord added much more; whereupon he reſolved to put off to Sea for four or five days, till ſuch time as the Souldiers for the Convoy were drawn out of Town. *De Bocq* returned with this news to his *Highneſs*, beſeeching him that he would be pleaſed to ſend ſuch forces to *Oſtend*, as might be ſufficient to receive the Mareſhall, and alſo to catch him in the Mouſe-trap.

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The *French*, on their part, had made choice of two very able persons (as they thought) who (with some of the pretended Confederates) were to go into the Town in a disguise, and to lye close in the house of a certain Citizen, whose name it were injustice to conceal, since he hath so well served the King, in this and other occasions; but most particularly as Pay-master to the Naval Army which was entertained in the year 1651, and 1652. for the besieging and taking *Graveling* and *Dunkirk*. This was one *Jaques Vleeshauwer*, Brother-in-law to the said *de Boeq*, who harboured and entertained them, and passed amongst them for a chief Mutineer.

The Principal of these two *Frenchmen* was called *Monet de Joly*, born at *Calais*, who had been a Captain of horse, but at present served in the *Cardinal*'s Guards; he was a man of parts, and undoubtedly well qualified, had he not had a touch of the ordinary *French* Levity, and that his want of years made him

him over-confident: The other was named *de Fontene*, who either was (or pretended to be) an Ingeniere, but otherwise one of a very mean capacity, and somewhat deaffish. This man came as deputy to *Monet*; and their Commission was to treat with the Confederates of whatever was to be acted upon the place, to dispose the Marshall's entrance into the Town, to distribute his forces, and with the 400. men (which they conceived they had in Town at their own devotion) to possess the principal Gates, the main Guards, and the Magazins; to take or kill the Governour, to give the Watch-word, and what else was to be done; and that then, one of them should return to the Marcshall, with a particular relation, that he might know how to proceed with security.

These two, above-mentioned, left *Zealand* on the eighth of *May*, taking leave of the other Agents, in Company of the said Colonel; and Counce-

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lour *de Bocq*, came from *Sluce* by the Sea Coast to *Ostend*, in a Wagon, which was purposely provided for them, by one *Robert Mulebeq*, a man of Credit and Estate, a principal Privateer in *Ostend*, whom they also took to be one of the Confederates. Coming near to the Ferry-boat, *de Bocq* advanced, upon pretence to see if the Coast were clear, fearing lest they should accidentally stumble upon the Governour in their way, for it was not convenient they should see him or know him; and, to confirm the Cheat the more, the Governour (having notice of their coming) had placed a reformed Ensign (who had his lesson without book) as Sentinel, to startle them that they might not seem to be negligent in their Guards; and so being questioned upon their coming out of the Ferry-boat, who they were, and whither they went, 'twas answered by *de Bocq* and *Mulebecq*, that they were *Holland* Marchants, and that they would be answerable for them.

them. Thus they pass'd the first encounter with no small fright; and coming to the house of the said *Vleeshauwer*, thinking themselves now in Sanctuary, they fell down on their knees, and gave God thanks, that they had so happily escaped out of the hands of the *Spaniards*.

Now come I again to act my part of this Comedy, having not been upon the Stage, since the imprisonment of *Spintelet*, who left me fully instructed in all the Plot. His *Highness* and the Marquis of *Caracena*, had designed me the person whom the *French* were to seize upon as Governour, in conformity to the agreement betwixt the Confederates, who were to deliver up the Governour dead or alive. I being upon the seventh of the same month at *Brussells* (deputed by the Country upon some publique imployment) was sent for by his *Excellency* about e'even of the clock at night, after I was retired to my Chamber, and commanded from his

Highness

Highneſs to haſten away to *Oſtend*, to aſſiſt the Governour upon any occaſion; for that it would be very grateful to his *Highneſs*, the Governour much deſiring to have me as an aſſiſtant to him in this Action.

His *Excellency* (to prevent my replying or excuſing my ſelf from the journey) did purpoſely conceal from me the buſineſs which I had there to do; but I, who never ſtuck at any thing, which was commanded me, in relation to his Majeſties ſervice (although it were out of the Sphære of my activity) offered my ſelf immediately to go away that very night; his *Excellency* giving me a paper, which contained his *Highneſſe's* Commands to that effect, with a letter to the Governour, that he might underſtand ſo much; and thus, with a ticket to have the Gates of the Town opened, his *Excellence* diſpatch'd me away at Midnight. It was about two hours ere my Boots and Horſes were ready, ſo that before I got two

leagues and a half from *Bruſſells* it was broad day, and coming very early into *Gant*, 'twas impoſſible for me to get horſes, in regard there was a great Fair that day: Wherefore having no better means to advance, I took a little Boat upon the Channel of *Bruges*, capable to receive about a dozen or fifteen Muſketteers (being one of thoſe in which the *Spaniſh* foot had paſs'd with Serjeant Major *Sanpayo* to *Bruges*.) and taking a freſh horſe at the half way, I loſt but little time, although I feared I ſhould for want of horſes. At *Bruges* Gates I met with the ſaid Serjeant Major, expecting the arrival of Boats and proviſions, for to continue his journey to *Oſtend*. I endeavouring to ſpeak with him, found him at firſt very reſerved, being unwilling to acquaint me with his march, or let me know, that the order he had was not in thoſe expreſs and uſuall terms, that were requiſite to make him be furniſhed with conveniencies to paſſe his men; but diſcourſing

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betwixt our selves, we declared the march to be of Concern; and therefore we resolved, that he should make for *Lesinguen*, and send his Adjutant with me to *Ostend*, whence the Governour should send further directions what was to be done. I provided him Boats and provisions, and in pursuance of an order from his *Excellency*, I sent the Count *de Grimbergh*'s Troop which lay in Garrison at *Bruges*, to *Blanquenbergh*, with directions to observe what orders should be sent them by the Governour of *Ostend*; and so I took Horses, and went away on my journey thither. At the mouth of the Haven I met two of the *Eschevins* of the *Franc*, who were sent by their Magistrates to make provision for the Troops which came in from all parts, no body knowing upon what account, unless it were to make a Convoy for *Graveling*. I thought good to advise them, that it did much import his Majesties service, that they should quarter close, and not straggle about the

Country; for upon that depended the good or ill ſucceſs of a Deſign in hand, wherefore they ſhould be very carefull not to commit any diſorders in the Country.

Having made ſome little ſtay about this buſineſs, and Sailing towards the *Ferry*, whom ſhould I eſpy upon the Wharfe, but Monſieur *de Mulebeſq*, *Spintelet*, and Counſellour *de Bocq*, who were going to introduce the two *French-men*, before mentioned, into the Town, as 'twas agreed upon between them, which I underſtood by the letters ſhewed me by the Marquiſſe of *Caracena*; ſo that I was forced to delay ſome time upon the water, to avoid being ſeen and known.

The Governour received me with his wonted civility, as the profeſt friendſhip betwixt us might deſerve, and with ſomewhat more than an ordinary demonſtration for the confidence he always had in me; having paſs'd ſome complements, we retired with the

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Serjeant Major *Don Diego de Herreras* and Counsellour *de Bocq*, to debate about the main business; and being shut up together, the Governour made a formall discourse, with great dissimulation commending the zeal and fervour which I had always shewn in his Majesties service; telling me, how that his *Highness*, and the Marquis of *Caracena*, had ordered him, in recompence of my services, to deliver up the government of *Ostend* into my hands, offering me (as an earnest of it) his Commanding Cane, which he had in his hand, charging the Serjeant Major to obey such orders, as I should give him in the quality of Governour; and all of them together, without expecting my reply, saluted me, and gave me joy. Although I could not but smile at their fained complement, which in it self was so extravagant and remote, yet I was very curious to know what this would amount to at last, and desiring them to leave their drolling, they began

by degrees to explain themſelves, and to declare to me, that it was agreed betwixt the Confederates and the *Frenchmen*, that they ſhould take the Governour of the place Priſoner, and that his *Highneſs* and his *Excellence* had commanded me to perſonate him, and that no body could perform it with more dexterity and addreſſe than my ſelf; ſo that I had nothing further to reply, for they knew it was not my cuſtome to diſpute commands, eſpecially in ſuch an Exigent as that.

I muſt confeſs, that as the preamble of the Governour's diſcourſe made me laugh, who (with his formall gravity was reſolved to recreate himſelf upon my ſcore, to ſee how I would take it) ſo was I much ſurpriſed at the concluſion, which was attended with the condition of ſo chimerical and perilous a goverument; which you may eaſily believe, eſpecially, when a propoſition is made to an honeſt man, to counterfeit another mansperſon: However, ſeeing it

was

was upon so extraordinary a piece of service; lest it might be thought I either wanted resolution, or a will, who upon all other occasions had shew'd my self so forward; without any other consideration than the King's Service, I presently accepted that imaginary government, and resolv'd to do whatever they deemed most expedient, for the carrying on the intended design.

Whereupon it was resolved that I should make choice of my own Prison, where I thought good. But setting aside what might concern that business, we fell into debate concerning the discourses of those two *French-men* which were brought in, who had declared that in those Ships and Vessells which lay before the Haven, there were double the number of men agreed upon; which they very well observing, all of them, found that those who were sent to re-inforce them, were not sufficient to secure the place; so they agreed upon dispatching away a Post imme-

diately to his *Highneſs*, and to the Marquiſs of *Caracena*, that they would pleaſe to ſend them more men that they might be able to receive their enemies without danger.

And, to diſguiſe this delay to the *French-men*, as alſo to allay the impatience of the Marquiſs (who was at ſea) and to keep him from going away, they were made believe, 'twas neceſſary to deferre the execution for a day or two, becauſe thoſe Troops, deſigned for a Convoy to *Graveling* (which quartered upon the *Franc* Country) were to receive a certain allowance, and ſo for the eaſe of the Country-people they were to quarter in the Towns; that this could not hold above two days, and that 'twas very convenient the Mareſhall ſhould be advertiz'd of it, that he might know it was deferred but the better to ſecure the ſucceſs.

And that they might not think it an excuſe, or an invention, it was ordered that the *Spaniſh* Foot, which lay already

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in *Lesinguen*, should be brought into the Town, and should passe through that very street where those two *French-men* might (by peeping out of their Windows) both see and number them, and that the Marshall might likewise have a view of them as they marched along the Shoar. All this was perform'd to a tittle; and moreover, I placed my self over against the *French-men's* Windows, with the Serjeant Major of the Town, and two or three Servants in the Governours Livery, where the Captains of the *Spanish* Infantry, who came into the Town, saluted me as they passed by, being my friends and acquaintance; and several of them speaking to me, those two *French-men* which were shut up, asked who we were? And Councellour *de Bocq*, who was with them at their Window, told them, It was the Governour, and the Serjeant Major of the place, describing us by the cloaths we wore; whereupon they (making themselves sure of their

prize) ſaid one to the other, Little think thoſe Gentlemen what will become of them within theſe 24. hours.

There remain'd one difficulty, which was, to find out a perſon to carry this Adviſe to the Mareſhall, ſome one that was rational, whom they might truſt in ſo important a buſineſs: There occurr'd to my memory one *John Duey*, who (having forfeited his life upon ſome high miſ-demeanours which he had committed) was condemned to be baniſhed. This man was promis'd his pardon, if he would undertake the carrying of this meſſage; he accepting of it, the two *French-men*, who were ſhut up, wrote to the Mareſhall all what hath been related, in the moſt efficacious manner they could; beſeeching his *Excellency*, that he would not think the time tedious, ſince all things went to his hearts deſire. This Meſſenger took a Horſe, and made great haſte to *Sluce*, from whence in a Boat with Sails and Oars, he ſoon got on Bord the

Mareſhall,

Mareſhall, to whom he delivered his Meſſage to the full. He was ſo well received and entertained, that he had his anſwer in a moment, and he being a very Divell of Hell, was hugg'd and kiſs'd by the Mareſhall himſelf, who diſcharging two peeces of Ordnances, gave notice he had receeived the diſpatch, and likewiſe, to let them underſtand, he would willingly wait. He ſhewed unto this *John Duey* a Cheſt, which he ſaid was full of double Piſtolls, to be diſtributed amongſt the Confederate Souldiers; and told him he ſhould not be out of patience, though he were to expect whole years, that he doubted not of their fidelity, and that he might aſſure them ſo much. *Duey* had purpoſely ordered his Horſe to be ſent back to *Blanquenbergh*, which is the half way betwixt *Oſtend* and *Sluce*, and in his return he was ſet on ſhore there, ſo that his diligence ſeemed miraculous.

In the mean time, I thought it good to find out persons to manage my imprisonment, and such as I might confide in, for so important a business. There were two Companies of Auxiliaries of the *Count de Meghems Tertia*, under Captain *Eguels*, and Captain *Febre*: These as my friends and acquaintance (having first taken their Words and Oaths of secresie) I thought best to instruct, and to make them instruments in carrying on that matter, so by degrees I began to acquaint them with the principal design, as likewise to inform them what they were to do in particular, and by what means they should be introduced into the company and acquaintance of those *French* Spyes that were shut up, and the other pretended Conspirators. These, feigning themselves to be reformed-Officers, that had taken a discontent, for having been affronted by the Governour, and had vowed revenge, were call'd by Councellor *de Bocq* into the presence of

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these two *French-men*, as friends and relations of Colonel *Spintelet*, who were resolved to steer his course, and run the same fortune with him, venturing their miserable lives, which they said were a burthen to them, so much were they oppressed by the many injuries they had received from the Governour.

They were received with open arms into the Committy, and there they fell presently to debate (according to the instructions I had given them) whether it were best to kill the Governour, or to take him prisoner. One alleadged, that the chief person in command being dead, there would certainly want the necessary Orders, and so in case they should endeavour to make a head, and to rally, they would never be able to give any considerable opposition; that it was to be feared so great a Revolution could not be without Tumult and hurly-burly; and having removed out of the way the principal persons, who

were

were moſt to be feared, all would be ſafe.

The other, on the contrary, urg'd that the Governour, in the preſent poſture the Town was in, could not get together three men; beſides, although what the other alleadged ſhould fall out, yet keeping him well-guarded, neither of them could want a dagger to take another reſolution; and that it was not probable that either the *King* or *Cardinal* would refuſe a Priſoner to thoſe two Gentlemen, who had ventured themſelves upon the place, which was the leaſt recompence he could give them; and that he knew for certain, that he had 80000. *Ducats* ready Caſh in *Bruges*, which was an infallible Ranſome, much more to be valued than his *Carkaſſe*; and, grant it ſhould not be given them, yet ſuch a ſumme of money might ſerve at any time to fortifie the *Suſſe* of *Plaſquendal*, by which means, all the land about it would be their own; that to expect money from

France,

France, would require some weeks time, which were to give the *Spaniard's* leisure to come and fortifie themselves there; and consequently to render *Ostend* useless to the most Christian King.

These Reasons (together with the news of the money, of which they thought themselves sure) made the *French-men* begin to unlock their five Senses, and having heard all their opinions, the most being for the killing of the Governour & (all this, as I told you, in order to the Instructions I had given them) the two *French-men* declared absolutely for the negative, giving express Order, that they should by no means kill him, repeating many times, *Non mordieu il ne faut pas le tuer*, but that they should let him live and use him well, and fish the * *Doblons* out of him, and after they had resolved upon this point each man retired to his Chamber.

* Or Double Pistolls.

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All this passed upon the eleventh of *May*, his *Excellence* having already given Command, that to the *Spanish* Foot should be added the *Count de Megems* whole *Tercia*, and the Regiment of *Alaman's*, of *Don Alberto Coloma*, writing to the Governour, that with this strength, there was nothing to be feared.

His *Excellency's* Letters and his Troops arrived not till the thirteenth in the morning, for they were commanded to make a halt at *Lesinguen*, till they had setled other matters. The first thing that was to be done, was to dispatch a second Messenger to the Marshall, to let him know that the Troops would march out of Town that very thirteenth day, to the end, that he should prepare to fall in with the Tyde on the fourteenth, being the day following; and about eleven of the clock at night they sent away the same *John Duey* a second time, to let him know that the Convoy was in a readiness to go out; that they would march the next

day without fail, and that they might discover them from Sea, and by a white cloth, which should at the same time be held up in a Mans hand, upon the great Bullwark of the Haven; and that he would please to signifie to them, by discharging of two Guns, and by hanging out a White-flag upon the Stern of his Ship, whether he was resolved to come and second them.

All this succeeded to wish, the Marshall having given the Signall with two piece of Ordnance, and the White-streamer; The Governour commanded the Drums to beat up, and the *Spanish* Foot to march out the same way that they had taken; and I, placing my self directly over against them in the same equipage, was taken notice of again, that they might not mistake me the night following. Serjeant Major *Sanzayo* had order, that as he passed along the Sands, about a league off from the Town, he should crosse over the Downs, and make a halt, calling to

him

him the other two Regiments which were in *Lesinguen*, with expres's order that upon pain of death no man should appear upon the Downs, to be discovered by those at Sea; and for greater security, they planted Sentinells, and the Officers themselves had strict charge to prevent it.

All this was a Riddle to both Officers and Souldiers, who could not guess to what all this caution tended. 'Tis not to be expressed what joy there was amongst the *French-men*, as well those two who lay privately in the Town, as also those who were in the Ships; neither the one or the other were able to contain themseles, they were so puft up with the hopes of being Masters of so important a place within few hours; being Eye-witnesses of the marching away of those who obstructed their Conquest, and counted their very Ranks as they marched through the Town; and those on Ship-board were troubled at nothing more, than that they had not

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Perſpective-glaſſes to do the ſame upon the Shore.

The *Spaniſh* Foot having marcht out, and the reſt of them being come to *Leſinguen*, with the Cavalry which were expected, it was thought requiſit to recommend the good ſucceſs to his Divine Majeſty, the Supreame Conductour of humane affairs, on whom depends the good or evil events of all enterprizes; whereupon a ſolemn Maſſe was order'd to be ſaid in the great Church, none knowing upon what occaſion, only to implore the Divine aſſiſtance for his Majeſties good ſucceſs, to which were invited the Magiſtrates, together with the chief of the Souldiery and Townſ-men, and it was recommended to the Guardian of the *Capuchins* to order the devoticns of his Convent to the ſame intent.

Having thus performed the obligation of higheſt Concern, the Governour cauſed an aſſembly of the Magiſtrates, being attended on by *de Bocq* and my ſelf;

ſelf; When we had taken our ſeats, the doors being barr'd, I told them the Governour had a buſineſs to propound to them, of ſo great importance to his Majeſties ſervice, that before it were declared to them, they muſt firſt be all ſworn by the Bayliffe to keep ſecreſie with all ſtrictneſs, it being ſo abſolutely eſſential, that without it all would fall to the ground; and an Oath being accordingly tendred to them in due form, Councellour *de Bocq* began a large and ample diſcourſe, relating to them the whole buſineſs from the beginning, requiring their concurrence, and aſſiſtance in accompliſhing the work. They very readily offered themſelves to do whatever ſhould be ordered them; ſo it was agreed upon, that after the Gates were ſhut, they ſhould divide themſelves into every ſtreet and quarter of the Town, by two and two; and that they ſhould ſpeak with every family, charging them, that whatever Rumour they ſhould hear, that Night after Mid-night, or about

about break of day, that not a man of them ſhould ſtir, nor open a Door or Window, although they ſhould hear the Cannons to play, the *French* Drums to beat, and the people to cry, *Vive la France*: However that each man ſhould have his Fire-arms ready fixt, that when they ſhould hear the jangling of Bells, every man ſhould then repair to his Colours, to go where-ever they ſhould be appointed, and that they ſhould fear nothing, ſince all was for the good of the Town. In the ſecond place, he told them how the two *French-men* were ſhut up, and that the night being come, and the counterfeit-Governour ſecured, it was agreed upon by the pretended Conſpiratours, the better to wheedle the *French-men*, that in that interim, whilſt they expected the coming in of the Tide, they ſhould aſſemble the Magiſtrates, and propound to them the ſwearing of *Fealty* to the King of *France*; wherefore he wiſhed them to carry it ſo, as that ſome ſhould

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pretend to retreat out of Town; others, that they would not ſwear; ſome, that they would; however, that they ſhould order it, in ſuch manner, that there might be an equality of votes, ſo that nothing ſhould be concluded on; alleaging they were not ſufficiently impowered from the King to tender them ſuch an Oath, and that the matter ſhould reſt undecided, and be deferred till the arrival of the Mareſhall. That Serjeant Major *Don Diego de Herrera* ſhould be ready at the place of Armes, to conduct the *Burgers* to that part of the Walls which they were to defend, where they ſhould receive farther orders.

Having given them this admonition, we took our leaves of the Magiſtrates, and went to the Covent of the *Capuchins*, adviſing the Guardian in general terms, that they ſhould keep quiet and ſtill whatever they heard; and that they ſhould prepare their Church, to ſhelter the *Count de Meghem's Tercia* of

Walloone

Wallone Foot, appointing ſome one to open and ſhut their Gate, betwixt nine and ten of the clock at night. There was the ſame care taken with the *Oratorian* Fathers, the Paſtors of the great Church, that they ſhould receive in the *Spaniſh* and *Alman* Infantry, which amounted to ſome 1200. men; and, this done, we went to eat, as if no ſuch thing had been to follow.

We paſſed the evening in ordering who ſhould command the Artillery and diſpoſe the Batteries, and for that purpoſe they appointed the Captains and Maſters of Ships, with ſuch Sea-men as were in Town. There was another invention found out for the greater confuſion of thoſe who were to be let into the Town, which was to clap up ſome ten or twelve men in Priſon, giving the Keeper private notice, that at Midnight, when he ſhould ſee the *Frenchmen* enter with Colonel *Spintelet*, *de Bacq*, and others, to demand the Keys, he ſhould then let out thoſe ten or twelve

twelve men, with some *English* Seamen, which were taken some few days before; but if he had any criminal Prisoners, or that were considerable, he should shut them up where they should not be seen; and I, on the other side, entertain'd my self with running over the lessons of those who were to take me Prisoner, that every one being perfect in his part, might act it to the life. The Officers of Horse and Foot were sent for to Town by an Adjutant; the Horse were ordered to march, and be before Mid-night (300. of them with their Serjeant Majors, the Baron *de Gourieres*, and Monsieur *Voglaer*) on that part of the Downs which is call'd *Lissemorre*, whither they should be conducted by Monsieur *le Fabre*, one of the *Eschevins* of the *Franc*, and that Serjeant Major *de Feu*, with 150. more, should come by the Bank of *Plasquendal*, to plant themselves behind it, at the point which is towards the Haven called *Slicque*, whither they should be

guided

guided by Monsieur *de Maldegem*, another *Eschevin* of the *Franc*; and that being come to their Posts, they should alight, not quitting the Bridle out of their hands; and, upon pain of death, that they should not straggle, much less shew themselves upon the Downs, or on the Banke, nor to get on Horseback, till such time as they heard the Muskets play from the Walls of the Town.

The Foot were charged not to stir from the place where they were, till late at night, and, that then, without beat of Drum, or Match lighted, they should march to the Town, where they should find the Gates open, and one to conduct them under the Walls to the Church, or to that part where they were to be shut up, from whence (whatever should happen, either noise of Drums or Cannons,) they were not to move, untill such time the Governour should direct them what to do. These orders being given out, each man ret-

red to act what was assigned him: They had caution given them, not to permit any living soul to go out of the Gates, left the secret should be discovered, which was a kind of Miracle, since there was a necessity it should passe through the hands of so many, and so different persons.

It being now night, the Governour, the Serjeant Major, and my self, went to open the Gates to let in the Foot, each one guiding his party: The first led the *Spanish* Foot under the Walls on the right-hand, towards the great Church; the Serjeant Major led the *Germans* the same way; and I with the *Wallons* passed under the Walls of the * *Cofres*, to shut them up in the *Capuchins* Church, where they all remained, without knowing what work was in hand, or in what they were to be employed. I told them the same thing which I had told the Gardian, and that I would be with them again about two or three of the

* Water Pits.

clock

clock in the morning, and that then I would conduct them where they were to continue for some time.

There fell out an unexpected Accident about this time, which was like to have disordered the whole Design; which being in it self so frivolous, it is worth a man's observation to consider, How small a matter may serve to dash such enterprizes. Thus it was; the Camp-boys who attended the *Spanish* Infantry, and other Servants with their Master's Ledhorses, running up and down the streets to seek their Quarters, did make such a hurly-bury, that they alarum'd the two *French-men*; which being observed by the Master of the house, and the rest who were at Supper, to divert it, they, under pretence of beginning a health, made such a dinn with their Knives and Dishes, that they no more minded what the business was; which really was a great presence of mind in such an occasion. They told them, that the Governor with other Officers, were returned from

seeing the Troops march with the Convoy towards *Gravelin*; so their apprehension being over, they continued their Drinking of Healths to the most Christian *King*, the *Cardinal*, the *Marshall*, and to their good success; of which they made no doubt.

We (having made all things sure) went to the Governour's house, where we Supp't at our leasure, smiling and pleasing our selves with the expectation of the good day following, which was the 14. of *May*. Supper being ended in good conversation, I retired to a Chamber, where there lay ready a Box with the Keys of the Town and Magazins, several Papers upon the Table, & a Desk to write upon; and you must know, there was only a little Court of the House, to be cross'd to these lodgings, so that one might go to them without any noise or disturbance. They all retired to take a little rest, and to make themselves ready to act their parts, which were to begin precisely at Midnight.

night. I being now in my quarters, and having already put on the Order of *St. Jago*, flinging the Governour's Cloak over my shoulders, with the same badge; I had nothing further to do but to School a Laquay of the Governour's, who lay at my Beds-feet upon a Mattresse, and knew nothing of what was in hand; I wish'd him only to make a counterfeit bustle, telling him that those that were to rush in to take me prisoner, were friends, and of his acquaintance in the Town, so that he need fear nothing, but that he should dissemble the best he could, but so as not to disturb or destroy the work. I reflected with my self, that one of these *French-men* (when they should see me hold up the dispute at that height) might happen to give me a stab, or prick me in some part of the body, that could not brook cold Iron, either upon my violent crying out, or upon any slight occasion; wherefore I took a quire of paper, and opening it, I clapt it

to the mouth of my Stomack, and upon some part of my Belly, which I thought might be proff against a thrust, in case it should come to triall, or that the *Monsieur* should have a mind to pink my Doublet. Into one of my Pockets I slipt a Pistoll, and into the other a Poniard or *Stiletto*, of those which they had hid in a private place, to be distributed amongst the Conspirators.

In this Posture (far from shutting my eyes) I for the space of an hour, expected their coming to take me, which I knew was to be precisely about Midnight. The clock had no sooner struck, but ere you could say a *Miserere*, I could hear them advancing, *cum lanternis, facibus, & armis*, making a great noise upon their surprising the Sentinel, which is usually set at the Governour's door, where there was at this time placed by design a reformed * *Alferez*, who had no need to be taught his lesson. They now began

* An Officer which in the *Spanish* Infantry is both Ensign and Lieutenant.

began their Action of battery against my Chamber-door, and with their Hammers and Iron-barrs, they opened it, in a less space than was requisite for the waking of me though I had slept never so soundly. They came rushing into my Chamber in a crowd, and two of the Captains seizing upon me, counterfeited so much to the life, that they had almost choaked me, so that being scarce able to breathe, I could not articulate with my voice, what I seemed desirous to express; it came at last to be past dissembling, for they had so throatled me with a Linnen-cloath, or Cravat, which I had about my neck, that (had it continued but a little longer) there had been an end of my counterfeiting; and my *French Monsieur*'s had been defeated of their Ransome, with which they were so much tickled. At last, the chief of those two *Frenchmen*, call'd *Du Mouet*, he that was Captain of Horse in the *Cardinal*'s Guards, whith his Sword in his hand, spoke thus

unto me: Submit your self to the Arms of *France*, for the Town is the King's; the Marcshall *D' Aumont* is at the Gates ready to enter, I have taken possession of it in his name, the People and the Garrison have declared for the most Christian King. By this time, I was a little come to my self, and feigning to be infinitely troubled, I cry'd out in Spanish, *Arma, Arma, largemo Major, traycion, traycion*; making as if I understood not what he said to me: and, when I espied Colonel *Spintelet* amongst them, I addressed my complaints to him, calling him infamous Traytor, telling him I never expected better of him, and raging like a Mad-man out of his wits, I begg'd of them to kill me, making as if I would have snatch'd one of their Swords out of their hands: In fine, I dissembled as much as it was possible, endeavouring to expresse great rage and indignation, from which in reallity I was free enough. *Du Monet*, (seeing me so highly afflicted, and dis-

compo-

composed, reflecting perchance on the 80000. *ducats*, which I had not at *Bruges*) endeavouring all he could to comfort me, with much gallantry, and fine language, he said, Sir, you must please to suffer the Crosses of Fortune with a generous spirit; remembring who you are, and the great valour which you have for so many years shewn in your King's service; this was a Stratagem of War, from which the greatest Commanders are not secure; you are betray'd by your own men, and against such treason there is no defence; your reputation is so established in the Army, that you can never suffer in it, your courage is too well known; the affairs of War have their ebbs and flows, and what is held to be most secure, is often lost in an hour: Comfort your self, Sir, with this, the King of *France* is a mighty Monarch, and the Marshall a noble Lord, He will both give you good Quarter, and use your Lady with all Civillity; Resolve to bear

this mis-fortune like a man of courage, and conform your self to time and occasion. As well he might have spoken all that while to a Wall, for I made as if I understood him not, still talking on like a Mad-man; with that my *Monsieur* began to take Pepper in the Nole, and said in great wroth, Bid him hold his tongue, and be quiet, or, I will clap my Sword in his Guts; which crabbed Logick sounded harsh in my ears, whereupon I put my hand in my Pocket, keeping my eye upon him, to see if he persisted in such Blasphemy; if he had, I should have made bold to have sing'd his Beard for him; *Sed motos præstat componere fluctus*, but I thought it best to furle up my Sails, the high winds of my passion seeming to be allayed; so I expressed the anguish and trouble I seem'd to have in my mind, only by sighing and sobbing.

As they led me along, we passed by the *Capuchins* Church, where the Count *de Meghem*'s Regiment was shut up, and so

to the little Market-place, to meet with Captain *Hornet*, who, with a hundred men ready in Arms (which by agreement he had got together upon the discharging a Pistol) march'd all in good order, to seize upon the Court of Guards at the Gate of the *Cay*; and being come within fifty paces of them, he sent a Serjeant Major with a Vanguard of twenty five Musketiers, to fall in amongst those careless Souldiers, who having but one Sentinel, and six or seven old men, hovering over a little fire, and three or four more asleep, it was an easie matter for them to discharge some few Muskets in the air, and two or three of them to counterfeit being hurt, besmearing themselves with a little blood, which they had purposely provided. These were commanded by the said *Monsieur du Mont* to be sent away to the Hospitals the rest were disarmed; and he told them very courteously in *Italian*, as well as he could, *Figlivoli bon animo è fortuna de la Guerra*

bourc'e

haurete bon quartiere. He delivered me up to that Court of Guard, with an expresse charge to Captain *Febre*, to keep me safe: As for Captain *Eguel's*, I had before given him order not to stir an Inch from *du Monet*, but strictly to observe his words and actions, and to squeeze out of him what possible he could of the design of these Gentlemen, and what they farther intended, having possessed themselves of so important a place: Nor was the Captain careless to do so, to whom this *French-man* had already promised to be instantly put into the Command of a Company in the Regiment of *Picardy*. In the interim, they met with great difficulty in opening the Gates: for, the usual Porter not being prepared for it, and much surprised to see the Town surrendred, in that confusion had mingled his Keys together, so that they were forced to send for a *Spanish* Corporal from the Court of Guard to open them; who patiently bore some Raps of the Pate,

the

the better to disguise his trouble.

The Gates being opened, Colonel *Spintelet*, and Advocate *de Borq* (who, as I said before, went by the name of *Stapen*) told them, that now they had nothing further to do on their part, and that the rest did not depend on them; wherefore the Souldiers began to cry, *Spintelet*, *Spintelet*, Money, Money, Money; to which *du Monet* replyed, Gentlemen, your money is ready in the Ships, the Marshall brings it with him, and I assure you, you shall have more than was promised you; [and I believe he spake a truth, meaning blows, the usuall rewards of Traytors.]

At the same time the two Captains, *Sneyers* and *Spruit*, possessed themselves of the Main Guards, and of the Gate of *Newport*, who a little before had had notice given them of what would happen. Then this *du Monet*, with Captain *Egurls*, the Colonel, and many others of the pretended Conspirators, got upon the Walls, and changed all the

Sen-

Sentinells, and the Word, which they gave, St. *Lewis*. After that, they went to the grand Battery, whence they did discharge three pieces of Ordnance, as a Signall, to shew they were Masters of the Place; hanging forth a great Sheet upon a Pole, instead of a white Banner, as they use in *France*.

The *English* fleet, which lay in the Rode (having in her the Marcshall, with those men which were to be brought into the Town) answered likewise with three pieces of Cannon; but in being as yet not day, nor the time of Tyde serving, which we had duly weigh'd, *du Mouet* resolved to go and assemble the Magistrates, to make them swear Allegiance to the most Christian King. And by the way, as they were going, he told Captain *Egnels*, that there would be suddenly dis-embark'd a very puissant Army, to conquer the whole Country; and that, leaving *Dunkirk* and *Gravelin* (which of themselves would fall in) they would begin with that which was

the

the most solid, and essential. First of all, they would Fortifie *Lesquandall*, to command the Water: Then he fell to his ejaculations, crying out to himself, with a loud voice; O fortunate King of *France*, now thou art truly a Monarch, since, in one day, I have added to thy Crown so powerful, and rich a Country, which thou hast gain'd without the losse of one man! What reward may not a poor Gentleman expect at thy hands, who with the hazzard of his life, hath made thee Earl of *Flandry*? Thus did his tongue run riot, entertaining Captain *Equels* with such extravagant discourses; and, promising to himself mountains of gold, he came to the Town-house, by the way flinging open the Prison, and letting out those, who were not really imprisoned (as I formerly said) but such as were clapt up by design; telling them that in the King of *France* his Name, he gave them their liberty.

Some

Some few days before, they had taken five or six *English* Marriners, and those were purposely freed, they which took them losing their ransomes, which they ought not to have done. This did extreamly confirm them, and heighten their confidence; for the news arriving at the Fleet (being sent thither with the Pilots who went to bring in the *English*) they did there divulge the condition of the Town.

There came the Bayliff, Burgomasters, and Head-borroughs, running in great hurry, and confusion to the Town-house; some of them half naked, making as if they had been frighted out of their Beds. He made them a large discourse, how that by the just judgment of God, that Place was returned to the obedience of its lawfull Lord, and natural King, since the most Christian King's Title to those Provinces, was so clear and manifest, that no body could question it; and that after so many years of slavery, they might

might rejoyce to have come back to the obedience of so benigne, and just a Prince; being free'd from the yoke and tyranny of *Spain*; and since they had obtained this grace without toil or blood-shed, he desired them all in his presence, to swear Fidelity to the most Christian King.

As to this point, they all had their instructions, which were, to debate amongst themselves, whether they should swear or not, upon which, being divided in their opinions, they resolved to spur him the question. Whether he were fully empowered (which they well knew he was not) to take their oaths. In case he had, they would have shifted it off upon equality of Votes, desiring it might be deferred till the entry of the Marcshall, which would be in a very few hours: Upon his answer, that he had no power, the matter for that time was laid aside, they promising to keep together, till they had the honour to see the Marcshall.

The

The day now began to break, it being about half an hour past one, or upon the point of two of the clock, at which time he gave order, that they should take me from the Court of Guard, and that they should carry me to some Inn, or private house, with a guard of a dozen men, and a Serjeant, giving them a strict charge of my person; but withall, that they should treat me with all civility and courtesie. Whereupon they carried me to a place, not far from the Walls, neat unto the *Capuchins*. Then returned he to the Town-house, to order the disposing of the men who were to come in with the Marshall, for the guarding the several Posts of the place, sending away a relation of all what had pass'd to the Fleet, by his Camarade (who was present at all, and had been shut up with him) and by the Pilots before mentioned, and the *English* who escaped out of Prison, and with a letter of his own. They were not long in carrying their intelligence,

gence; for, the Marefhall preſently fired three pieces of Cannon, and by the Pendents and Streamers which they hung out, it might plainly be diſcerned from the Walls, that the *French* thought themſelves abſolutely Maſters of the Place.

In the interim (leaving my Gentleman very buſie, and writing, as I was told by ſeveral perſons who obſerved him) I ſlipt out of my Priſon by a back door; and paſſing through Narrow-lanes, and little By-alleys, I came to the Governour's houſe; where we could not but celebrate with laughter, all that had paſſed. The Governour, and I, (having comforted our ſtomacks with *Chocolate*) went upon the Walls, whence we could deſcry a Shallop, making into the Haven in all haſte, Rowing againſt Tide, which we conceived to be ſome one ſent before to ſcout, and ſee, if the Coaſt were clear; nor were we deceived. The Governour retired privately to his houſe, and I fair and ſoftly

softly stept back to my Prison.

A while after, *du Monet* was advertized there was a Gentleman arrived from the Mareshall; he presently left his business, and ran to receive him with open armes at the Cay, he shew'd him the Gates of the Town open, the Keys of the Magazins, the Souldiery crying *viva Francia*, a *Spintelet*, a *Spintelet*, Money, Money; to conclude all, he brought him to see the Governour under custody. I being advised of his coming (by my Keepers) did set Sentinels at the Street-door, in the Garden, at the Windows, and doubled them upon the Stairs, another at my Chamber-door, and two within, in sight of me, every one of them asking the Word, with extraordinary punctuallity, and strictness, which was more and more to encrease the confidence of one who was already sufficiently deceived. In fine, in rush'd a crow'd, where I was leaning upon my Elbow sighing, and as melancholy as a Lover's Lute.

The

The Messenger began, with great Civility, to deliver me a Complement from the Marshal, comforting me in my misfortune, assuring me of good usage, and fair quarter, as well for my own Person, as for my Wife and Children; he told me, that the King was a sufficient gainer by the place, and that, without doubt I should be speedily freed, since I was bought and sold, with a great deal more of such stuff; and whereas he expected a correspondent answer to his complement, I did very soberly (making as if I understood him not) ask Captain *Febre* in *Spanish*, *Que dize, Senore?* What says he, Sir? He on the other side, labour'd all he could to explicate, and interpret his *Harangue*, using, in a manner, the very same words; to which I answered with much gravity, that the Marshall might do by me as he pleased, I should neither ask, nor take quarter, that I was a lost man on all hands, that I had formerly been his Prisoner, and that I expected

no

no better usage from him now, that I was taken unarmed, then, when I was taken, in the open field; that he might spare his complements, which I neither needed, nor regarded; and so I turned my back to him: with which he was so nettled, that he used this expression to his companion, and the rest who were present, *Mordieu l' arrogance Espanole!*

As he returned to re-imbark himself, passing the Gate, and the Court-guard, the Souldiers still cryed out, a *Spintelet*, a *Spintelet*, Money, Money, Money; with this cry they followed him to his Boat, they Beat their Drums for the morning-watch after the *French* Mode, and Beat a *French* March to the Place of Arms, and to the Walls; all the Burgers keeping their Windows and Doors close shut, according to the order given them the night before, by the Headboroughs, as was before mentioned.

Du Monet returned to the Town-house, to finish the disposing of the men

men for the Guards, which he had begun; allotting to some the Market-place, to others the Gates, according to the quality of the Troops. In which employment we will leave him a while, for what follows, will prove Tragicall to him.

Day coming on apace, it was now time to un-mask, and to shake off our disguise, for we could from the Walls discover the *French* Infantry, shifting out of the great *English* Ships into small *French* Vessels, to get into the Haven, the Tide being within an hour ready to flow. Above all things, we thought it necessary to make sure of this man, and he having taken me Prisoner at Midnight, I thought I was bound to treat him with the same civility, as he had shewed to me; and to save the life of a man of so much resolution and courage, which in the greatest enemies is always to be valued. At first the Governour, and my self, had thoughts of hanging him up upon a Wind-mill at the Key, to unde-

undeceive their men; but the great courage and generosity which I observed in the man, made me have a kindness for him; so I resolved to beg his life of his *Highness*, and his *Excellence*, which afterwards I did, and obtained it. So lapping a Skarff about my Middle, with a Pistoll by my Side, not knowing what might happen, I went along with Captain *Eguels*, and some Souldiers, to apprehend him; I found him Writing of his Orders; and he seeing me come into the Room, with a Skarff and Pistoll, my Staff and Hat in my hand, he started back in an amaze, I made up towards him, and said to him in *French*, *Monsieur*, what is it you fear? I come not to you with my Sword in my Hand, as you did at Mid-night when you took me; I come to bid you welcome, and embrace you in these armes, which have long expected you here: Therefore, Sir, give me leave to tell you, you are welcome; which that you may believe to be reall, I shall need to use no other language

than

than your own. These are Accidents and Stratagems of War, from which the greatest Souldiers are not secure; have patience, and conform your self to your fortune: for, men of courage, whatever falls out, are always themselves, and remain as firm as rocks. Comfort your self with what I shall tell you; you well enough know, Whosoever enters secretly into a Garrison-town and continuing there shall cause a Revolt, or endeavour to debauch the Garrison, or with-draw the People or Magistrates from the obedience of their lawfull Lord, and natural King, carries his Sentence along with him; neither can he expect any quarter, by the laws of War or Nature. Wherefore all things are prepared in a readiness, for the breaking you alive upon the Wheel, to serve as an Example and Terrour to others, lest at any time hereafter they should attempt the like design; however, your civill carriage to me, and the rest of the Prisoners (whom you did really believe in your power) hath so far gained upon

me, that, I assure you, your person shall not be touch'd, and I will cast my self at his *Highnesses* feet, to beg both your life and liberty, which I am confident will not be denied me: In the mean while be of good courage, I here give you my hand to make good my promise, neither shall you want the command of my purse.

You may well imagine what different effects this discourse of mine did work in this person, and in how great a confusion he was, however, he made no reply, but shrinking up his Shoulders, he said, I am young, and inconsiderate. Thus leaving him under the Custody of a Serjeant with half a dozen Souldiers to guard him, I returned to the Walls. At the same time they rung their Bells, the signall (as I said before) for the Townsmen to open their Houses, and to repair with their Armes, each man to his Colours.

It was about four of the clock, the Tyde beginning to come in, which at ten was to be High-water, when

when we could perceive all our enemies to be got out of the *English* Ships, and to be embarked in lesser Vessels, Pinnaces, and other *French* Boats, which they had brought for that purpose from *Calais*, ; and whilst they waited the coming in of the Tyde, they floated about with their Streamers and Pendents, beating their Drums, and playing on their Flutes, as if they were making an Entry of Triumph.

He, who Commanded in the Town, was not wanting to defend the Walls, with those men which were come in; so he ordered some *Spaniards* to the Counterscarpe, that lay against the Haven, and the Ferry, since it was apparent they must disembark there; in the *Stone-redout*, which is upon the *Cay*, he placed 30. *Spanish* Muskettiers, which were those who were like to do the best execution, the *Walloons* and *Germans* covered the Counterscarpe, from the Sally-port to the Sea-side, and what were over and above were placed upon the Walls; so likewise were the Towns-

men from the very front of the Dock to *Newport* Gate, with which the Town was so well defended, that it needed not to have feared a whole Army. All the Artillery was man'd with three men to a Gun, and those were Sea-Captains and Gunners of the Town. In this posture (the Souldiers falling flat down with their Arms upon the ground, lest they should be discovered from the Top-masts of the Ships) We expected with patience an hour, none but the Governour, and my self, walking upon the Walls, discoursing whether they would enter or not, and after what manner we should receive them, and whether it were best to strike a terrour into them by firing upon them, or else to send out some person to let them know that they were sold, and meerly trapan'd, that therefore they should fling down their Arms, and submit themselves; otherwise, to their Cost, they should find by experience their greater confusion. This was my advice, offering to go out my self, and to acquaint

them

them in what a Predicament they were, and without doubt they would have accepted our offer, which seemed to me the more glorious action; however, the Governour being wiser, and more circumspect, was resolved to proclaim their confusion to them by a Volley of Shot, lest there might be a treble design, as this was double. In fine, he being so great a Souldier, and all being to be filed upon his accompt, my reasons were out of doors.

In the interim, the Tide began to rise, and ere it was half-flood, we could, to our great satisfaction, discover ten Vessells, coming in with a North East wind (which was what they desired) loaded with men; their Arms in their hands, their Banners displayed, with Drums beating, playing on their Flutes, as if they were at a Wedding, with the embroydred Blew-coats of the King's guard of Musketiers, and Cardinal *Mazarin*'s Red-coats, with their Officers in all their gallantry, and the *Marshall* in the midst of them, with

his Order of the Holy Ghoſt.

The Wind was ſo brisk, that having once paſs'd the Shelf, at the coming into the Haven, there was no ſtopping of themſelves, by reaſon of the violent ſtream, that came along with them, and likewiſe, in regard of the Wind. In this poſture, they came to the *Cay* without, and climbing over the Bilanders, and other Veſſells which were there, they came on Shoar, to draw themſelves into Squadrons.

There is one thing not to be forgot: the Mareſhall before he came out of the *Engliſh* Ship, in which he was, had ſent a * *Patache* to the *Cardinal*, with the advice of the Victory, which he thought he had already got; who with that Wind, which I ſpoke of, got in few hours to *Calais*, to the Count *de Charon*, who preſently diſpatch't away a Gentleman Poſt to the *Cardinal*, giving him joy of the taking of *Oſtend*, and by conſequence all *Flanders*; the *Cardinal* did not omit to ſend away with all ſpeed to *Frankfort*, where

* A Pinnace, or nimble Boat.

where the Electors of the *Empire* were met upon the Election of the King of the *Romans*, and they did so blazon abroad the great Revolution, which from day to day would be declared, that they kept the aforesaid Electors in suspence, as likewise the other Ministers, who were there employed about that important affair; neither did this news (which the enemies had spread abroad) give a small disturbance to the King of *Hungary*, the *Arch-Duke*, and the Count *de Pennaranda*; till such time as their minds were quieted by the arrival of a Post, sent away by *Don John*, with the Relation I made him, who parted from *Bruxell's* the next day after this happened; for I stay'd but that night, leaving *Ostend* at the very instant, that we had convoy'd the Mareshall to the Governour's house, which was about three in the afternoon. And those that are at *Frankfort* write from thence, that this News has so confounded the arrogance of the *French* there, that they appear not in the streets.

But

But to return to our Enemies: being disembarked, they began to form a Squadron of 1500. men upon the *Cay*, which was neareſt to the Town; the Governour thought it fit to diſperſe and ſcatter them; and ſo with his own hands he pull'd down the white Flag, which had been ſet up as a Signal upon the great Bulwark, and commanded a Volley of Muſket-ſhot to be given them, which was the firſt warning they had to diſabuſe themſelves; upon which each man began to ſhift for himſelf.

The Artillery playing too ſoon upon the Ships which entred, was the only error that was committed in this Action, it hindering five Veſſells from entring; and eſpecially, a great Frigate, in which were all the Chief Officers of the *Engliſh* Fleet, who were invited by the Mareſhall to Dinner,; and theſe being within ten or twelve paces of the Shelff, tack't about, with others that did not come in, in which, they ſaid, there were the 200000 *Florins*, ſent by Capitulation for the Garriſon; but for

my

my part, I do not believe there was one farthing, becauſe 'tis ſeldome that Traytors are ſo punctually dealt withall.

Marſhall *De Aumont*, with two Captains of the King's Guard, and ſome other particular perſons, fled over the drowned Lands, thinking to ſave themſelves by croſſing the Haven, and ſo taking towards the Downs, over againſt the Town; there went about 150. of them with their Arms: that way was well found out by them, had it not been prevented by an Ambuſh of 300. Horſe, with good Officers, who received them with many complements.

By this time I was ſallied forth with an Adjutant of *Don Antonio Furtado*'s *Tercia*, and a dozen *Spaniſh* Musketeers, running to and fro along the Bank, and the over-flowed-land, in purſuit of the *Mareſhall*, and Monſieur *Talou*, who eſcaped me, in regard I knew him not; the latter of the two having whiſpered a pleaſant note, and gratefull to the ears of a Captain of *Spaniſh* Foot, to the Tune of 300. Piſtolls, although his

his ranſome was worth 20000. he holding a far greater imployment than his Military, and not having Quarter, but at diſcretion. Whether the Captain, in this particular, abuſed the King, or no, I ſhall not take upon me to judge; I know it was paſs'd by, by which it appears, not to be capital.

Above 300. men flung down their Armes altogether, upon a Sign I gave them, telling them, they were betray'd, as they might perceive by the dead, and the wounded, wich amounted not to 200. the reſt being all taken Priſoners of War, and being ſtript, were ſent away to ſeveral Towns. The *Mareſhall*, and ſome Noble Perſons with him, were treated with all civility and reſpect, his *Highneſs* recommending them to the Caſtle at *Antwerp*.

The *Mareſhall* was very deſirous to have entred the Town in the Governour's Coach, pretending himſelf to be hurt in the Heel, of which he halted, becauſe he would not paſſe ſhamefully through the Crowd; but 'twas not thought

thought fit; but rather, that the Souldiers, and the Burgers, who were handsomely drawn up in the ſtreets, and in all the chief places of the Town, ſhould have the joy, and ſatisfaction to ſee thoſe taken, who had ſo long watch'd to have taken them; by which means this day was a day of Jubily for *Oſtend*, and all thoſe who were concerned in it.

Here, Sir, you have a Relation at large, of all that paſſed, with the happy concluſion of the ſucceſs, which we owe to his *Highneſs*, who by his wiſdome knew how to begin it, carry it on, and end it, according to our hearts deſire.

An ingenious perſon might here find field-room enough to enlarge himſelf, and to adorn and illuſtrate this Story, both with Moral and Political obſervations, upon the variety of changes, and the miraculous ſecreſie; But I who have other Irons in the Fire, ſhall leave it to ſuch who profeſs writing, and have the faculty of applying the thoughts of other men to their own. And ſhall end with

with telling you, Colonel *Spintelet* was rewarded with a Regiment of *Walloon* Foot; and Advocate *de Bocq*, who was so indefatigable in the pains he took, was made Councellour of *Flanders*, and Attorney General of the Province. These rewards were deservedly bestowed, and may be good motives for every one, to make use of that Talent God hath given him: They have left me (who likewise bore my share in the Brunt) puff'd up with the pride and vanity of having acted my part well in this Farce; with which I am as fully satisfied, as they with their rewards; and should be more if this rough draught be acceptable to you, whom God preserve: Which is the vote of

SIR,

Yours.

FINIS.